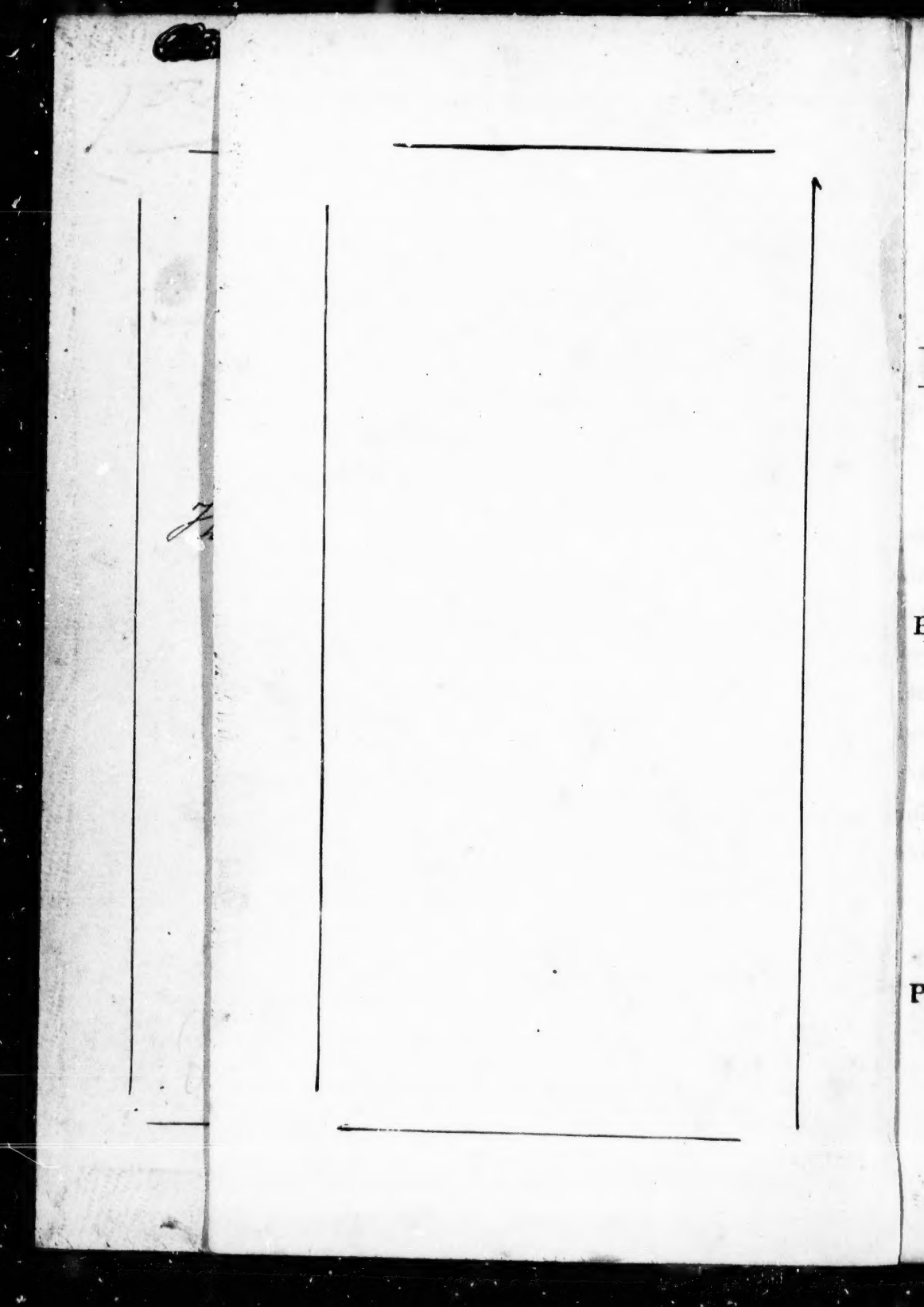

LETTERS

ON

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

BY

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PREFACE.

THE following Letters were written for the *Royal Gazette* Newspaper, published at Charlottetown, and were intended merely to serve the usual purpose of ephemeral publications.

It was the opinion, however, of some, upon whose judgment, reliance, it was thought, ought to be placed, that they would tend to make the Island better known if collected and published in a Pamphlet form, and accordingly with the exception of a few of the first, the matter of the columns of the newspaper, was divided into pages and reprinted immediately. This, it is to be hoped, will serve to disarm criticism, and account for the many imperfections of style and other irregularities that may be found in them.

Charlottetown, 12th February, 1851.

LETTERS ON

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

LETTER I.

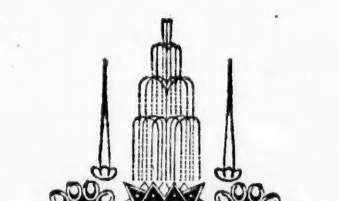
You ask me for a description of Prince Edward Island; one that may be confidently relied upon by those who may contemplate migrating thither, in search of an eligible place of residence. I am perfectly willing to comply with your request, to the best of my abilities, and will, in my future letters, devote a part of each to that purpose; and this the more willingly, because I feel convinced, that there are few parts of British North America to which certain classes of people, desirous of crossing the Atlantic, can turn their attention with better prospects of success. I say certain classes, because the Island is neither an El Dorado nor a California, and is no place for the speculative adventurer, who is anxious to accumulate a fortune, with which he may, after the lapse of a few years, return to his native country, and dazzle the eyes of his friends and acquaintances. On the contrary, the man who seriously contemplates a removal to Prince Edward Island, must make up his mind to its being the permanent home of himself and family, where, if he have a moderate income, he may, with common prudence and economy, obtain all the necessaries and comforts of life, and a considerable share of the luxuries at a more moderate outlay than in most other places. To him who has a large or an increasing family, and who is also possessed of some capital, accompanied with industrious habits, who is not in haste to get rich, but anxious to put that family in the way of earning their own livelihood, the Island affords equal, if not superior advantages to the surrounding Provinces; and, lastly, the poor but sober and industrious farmer, mechanic, or labourer, who will continue willing to work, is sure, if life and health are vouchsafed to him, to be, in the course of a few years, in a far more respectable

and independent rank of life that he could ever have expected to attain to in his own country. But those who hope to succeed without prudence, economy, industry, and patience, will find themselves miserably disappointed.

A glance at the map will show you that the Island is situated between the 45th and 47th parallels of North Latitude. Charlottetown, the capital, which is also the centre of the Island, is in lat, 46, 12, North, and lon. 63, West. It is surrounded by part of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Strait of Northumberland, which separates it from the sister Colonies of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the nearest point of the coast of the latter (Cape Tormentine) being distant, from Cape Traverse, about 10 miles. It is between these two headlands that the English and Colonial mails are brought over every week during the winter. People from the Old Country, as we are in the habit of calling the British Islands, are sometimes led to suppose that the climate of America is similar to that of countries in corresponding latitudes in Europe: this is not, however, the case, for though the summers of the former are as warm and perhaps warmer, the winters are invariably colder than those of the latter continent. Why this difference should exist, is involved in much obscurity, and has been productive of much discussion; but, if Julius Cæsar is to be believed,—and his celebrated "Commentaries" are not, as has been asserted, a species of the "Romance of History," got up centuries after he was dead and buried,—that the climate of France was in his time pretty much the same with that of these Northern Provinces of America. He states, that the Sequana (the modern Seine) was frozen so hard as to enable it to sustain the weight of a whole nation, with all its baggage. Now though no mention is to be met with in modern history, of a similar occurrence, with respect to the Seine, yet, on this side of the Atlantic, our rivers and the seas around our coasts are, during the months of January and February, at all events, fully as capable of bearing—not, perhaps, a whole nation with its baggage, but—as heavy loads as we can get horses to draw, and form a species of railway, upon which the principal traffic, from one part of the Island to another, is carried on with far greater ease than it could be accomplished in the summer. I must here pause for a moment. Would it not be better that I should first dilate upon the great advantages that may be expected from a residence in the Island? Will not this at once deter you, and all to whom you shall show this letter, from embarking for such a hyperborean region?—As you must be acquainted with it some time or other, I am determined that you shall know the worst at once. The winters, then, it must be confessed, are both long and severe, compared with those of

Britain, France, and some parts of Germany ; not one whit more, however, than those of the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; less severe and shorter than the winters of, what was formerly called, Lower Canada ; and short and mild, when contrasted with those of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, or Russia. What we term the setting in of winter, usually occurs about the middle of December, when the ground begins to be covered with snow ; the navigation, however, is not closed till about the latter end of that month in Charlottetown, and at Georgetown, or Three Rivers, as it is more frequently termed, the harbor remains open until late in January. The ice breaks up, and the navigation commences, in April, sometimes at the beginning, sometimes towards the latter end of the month. In like manner, the plough is in operation from the beginning or middle of April until the latter end of November. There are, occasionally, periods of intense cold, the thermometer verging as low as 25° or 30° below the Zero of Farenheit, and even, it is said, lower, but these are uncommon, and of very short duration ; nor are they attended with any dangerous or even disagreeable consequences. During the months of January and February, when the cold is most intense, little or no rain falls, and the air is clear, bracing, and healthy. I will, in a future letter, show you how we pass the time during this portion of the year. In fact, the length of the winter is complained of more by the farming portion of the population than by any other, and by them generally without much show of reason. Accustomed to keep more horses, and more cattle, than they can provide fodder for, they throw the blame of their own improvidence, upon the length of the winter ; but of this I shall have more to say by and by. The spring is short, and compels the husbandman to be on the alert to get his crop in sufficiently early to meet the rapidity of the vegetation. The summers are in general warm ; there is, however, a considerable variation. The thermometer rises as high as 90° in the shade, but, like the extreme cold, it is seldom of long continuance, and unattended with any deleterious effects. From our insular position, we are accustomed to have the benefit of a refreshing breeze, even in the hottest weather. On one point of the greatest importance, I can speak freely, and without fear of contradiction, the climate is decidedly a healthy one. We are subject to no endemic diseases ; Fever and Ague are unknown ; and we have as yet been mercifully spared the visitation of Cholera. In a word, whatever you may have heard, neither the severity of the winter, nor the heat of the summer, is in the least to be feared : good warm clothing and exercise without, and a tight house and a good fire within doors, will protect you from the effects of the former ; and, if

you should at times feel it rather warmer than you have been accustomed; by the aid of a light dress and cooling diet, you will not be likely to suffer much from the short time you will be exposed to it. I must not forget to mention, that we are entirely free from those fogs which are so great a drawback to comfort, and impediments to navigation in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Our autumns are delightful, and there is nothing in the month of November to induce meditations of a suicidal nature.



LETTER

Food and raiment, fire and shelter, are . t are necessary to existence, say the Philosophers, and they are, no doubt, in the right; for wherever a man goes, whether to a new inn or to a new country, one of the first objects of his enquiry is, "what have you got to eat? I will therefore anticipate the question, and furnish the answer. The market of Charlottetown is twice a week, Wednesdays and Saturdays, provided with a sufficiency of what are termed by good housewives the substantials of life. Beef and mutton are always to be had, and in their respective seasons, veal, lamb, pork and poultry, at reasonable prices. The highest prices for beef, mutton, lamb, veal and pork, seldom exceed, even in the Summer, four pence sterling the lb. avoirdupoise, and then only by a fraction. As to the quality of these, they are generally good, though not so highly fed, nor nearly so large as with you. The beef, in particular, is undersized, but is admitted on all hands to be sweet-tasted, tender and nourishing. At this season of the year (August) it is all grass-fed, and will so continue until the beginning of October, after which, a great reduction in the price takes place. I have hitherto been talking of the price in market, by the joint; as soon, however, as the weather begins to get sufficiently cool to enable us to purchase a quarter of beef, say from 90 to 200 lbs., and when the winter fed is offered for sale, it may be had at from 2d. to 1½d, sterling per lb., and even lower. A good harness cask, or powdering tub, now becomes an indispensable article of kitchen, or rather cellar furniture, upon the judicious and skilful use of which, much of the domestic comfort and economy will depend. In the size and quality of the mutton and lamb, we have no reason to fear competition with any of the surrounding Provinces, and connois-

seurs from England have praised them highly; some of the former is said to resemble the Welsh mutton in delicacy of flavour. In the winter, abundance of stall-fed mutton is to be met with, either in the market or brought to the doors, the best at 2d. sterling the lb. Owing to the quantity furnished by the farmers in the vicinity, veal is not so good in proportion to the supply as other kinds of meat; it seldom rises above 2d sterling the lb. It is not considered here as it is in many other places, rather as a luxury, and therefore the same pains are not bestowed upon the fattening and whitening of the meat. But there is nothing to hinder our being as well provided with this article in the first style, and of the best quality; and when our butchers find an increased demand, and a more fastidious taste, they will doubtless exert themselves to please the public. Winter is the season for pork, and it is then plenty, well-fed, and well-tasted. It is never over large, the carcase seldom exceeding 300 lbs; the price may be stated at 2d. sterling the lb. In general, private families, to whom economy is an object, prefer curing their own pork, bacon and hams, purchasing the animal by the carcase in the Winter or toward the Spring, when it is cheapest; excellent hams and bacon may, however be procured from butchers and others at from 4d. to 6d. the lb. Winter is also the season for poultry; not that we are without more or less of it at all times in market, but about Christmas it is in great abundance, and so continues until some time after Easter. Plenty of turkeys may be had, from 4s. to 2s. sterling each, either alive or dead as you may chose. Geese are most generally brought in killed and ready picked, ready for dressing; and excellent fat and well-flavoured ones—either off the stubble, or during the winter—may be had from 1s. to 2s. sterling, according to size. They are not, as you may suppose, as large as prize geese in England, but are by no means to be despised, even as respects size, and are unquestionably the cheapest meat in the market. Fowls are equally plentiful, and may be had for 8d. to 1s. the couple. Why the duck should not be as frequently seen in our market as the rest of the feathered tribe is more than I can say, but so it is; they nevertheless take their place sometimes with the others, and at a correspondent price. But methinks I hear you say—Have you no game, no wild fowl, no venison, and above all have you no fish? Of course we have, but, being delicacies, they have been reserved for the second course—I mean the game, &c. As to the fish, we have cod, haddock, herring, mackerel, trout and salmon. I need not remind you that we are, in consequence of the frost, una-

ble to procure them in the winter; but from the opening of the harbors to the closing, they are to be had, and some of them in such abundance as to cease to be considered in the slightest degree a luxury. Codfish and haddock are from 1d. and 9d. stg., and it must be a very large one—four feet long, at least—that will fetch the latter price; herring, at first 4d. per dozen, but afterward as low as 1s. the hundred; mackerel are sometimes very abundant and very large, from 1s. 6d. to 2s. sterling the dozen. Salmon are brought from St. Peter's, in the Eastern part of the Island, the only place where they *are*—but not where, as I take it, they *may* be—caught; they are sold, according to size, from 1s. 6d. to 4s. stg. each—averaging, as I ascertained a few days since, something less than 4d. stg. the lb. The steamer from Pictou brings a few at times. The Island abounds in trout, and, I will venture to say, not easily to be excelled; if not as fine, very little inferior to salmon; they afford equal gratification to the sportsman and the epicure. I was wrong in stating that we had no fish in the winter: trout are occasionally caught through holes in the ice, and so are smelt and eels, and are offered for sale by Indians or country lads. In these days of science, oysters and lobsters are not allowed to be fish; they were formerly held so, and are yet called *shell fish* by the vulgar, so I may safely bring them in here, and can but say, that if you are fond of either the one or the other, you may indulge your taste *ad libitum*, without fear of very materially lightening your pocket. Some years since, oysters were so abundant that they were taken from their beds and burnt for lime, and in such quantities that the Legislature had to interfere to prevent it. They sell at present from 1s. 6d. to 2s. stg. the bush.; they were formerly not more than half that price. You will laugh, and perhaps think that I am romancing when I tell you, that boiled lobsters are brought to market in cart loads, and sold from a half-penny to twopence sterling each; and yet it is perfectly true. I have seen as many as five carts, containing each at the least 200 lobsters—the owners retailing them either for the purpose of being eaten on the spot, or carried home to be cooked as stews or sauces, or made into salads. Are you fond of eels? because if you are, I promise you a treat; I care not which way you cook them, they are equally fine. The native Indian coils them in a hole lined with hot ashes, and then covers them with the same, and makes a fire over all. "When enough," he lifts them with that tenderness and respect which is unquestionably their due, and gently disengaging them from their now corrugated skin, slides them into a dish of birch bark (if he has no other), where their white flesh, rivalling the snow, invites "the

hungry traveller to his food," and forces him to confess that sometimes the greatest triumph of art is simplicity. In fact—but I must abstain. If I have a weak point about me, it is situated, I rather calculate, in the region of the stomach—for I never think, write or speak of cookery, but I feel inclined to be poetical. As to venison, you must not expect it; both moose and carriboo having long since been unheard of; nothing but a time-worn antler occasionally found, serving to remind us that they were once denizens of the forest. Should you, however, fancy a bear's ham, there are those who, during the winter, will be able to accommodate you—and famously fat they sometimes are. Rabbits, as they are called—but in reality small hares; for they never burrow, and have dark flesh—are to be had during the winter, at from 3d. to 4d. each; and they make a delicious dish, either roasted, boiled, stewed, or made into a curry. The ruffed grouse (*tetrao umbellus*), misnamed partridge, is also at times very plentiful, (much depending upon the supply of food in the woods, such as beech-mast, &c.), 6d. to 9d. each—a most delicious bird, and "plump as a partridge." Early in the spring of the year may be heard the harsh—to all but gastronomic ears—cry of the wild goose; and at the expense of from two to four British shillings, you may sit down to as capital a dish—if your cook knows how to dress it—as you will perhaps meet with any where; though many a man, of approved and standard taste, too, prefer the brant (a smaller species of goose), which is certainly a tender and delicate bird, almost as attractive to *gourmands* as the far-famed "canvass back" of the Chesapeake—about 3s. stg. the pair. Blue winged ducks, and teal have become scarce. There are bittern, snipe, woodcock and heron in the marshes; but as they never find their way into the market, I pass them over—which I would not do with respect to some of them, if they lay gracefully composed on beds of toast before me on the dinner table.

LETTER III.

My last was as dull and prosy, my wife says, as a price current, and in good sooth I agree with her; yet, as it was absolutely necessary that you should be informed of these things, I trust you will not only bear with that, but consent also to a prolongation of it as affects the vegetable part of the bill of fare which I have to offer. The Island flour does not present that dazzling white starch-like appearance that the United States flour does, but where care has been taken in the grinding and bolting, it is of a good white, with a just perceptible shade of cream colour—only discernible, by the way, when put in juxta-postion with American superfine. By the word "American" you must understand we always mean "of and pertaining to the United States of America." Keep this in mind, for I sometimes forget that I am addressing myself to a person of another country, and make use of terms which, though they may be to him equivocal, have here a definite and acknowledged conventional meaning. But to return to the flour. I need not, I should think, tell you, for you will readily imagine, that it is of every degree of fineness, and your eye and tongue must be your guides in purchasing. It is different with American flour; it is brought in barrels, which are branded "superfine," "extra-superfine," "fine," "middlings," &c. There is nothing of the kind here; every one brings his sack to market, and, opening the mouth of it, leaves you to judge for yourself. It is to be purchased all the year round for 1d. to 2d. sterling per lb. When sold by the hundred weight, there is almost always an abatement made in the price; 1½d. sterling may be considered as a fair average price, rather less than more. Many agree with a miller or farmer to supply them, at a fixed price, all the year round. I, of course, am now speaking of those who bake their own bread; those who prefer the light spongy bread of the baker may, in Charlottetown only, be well accommodated; there are several and highly respectable tradesmen who furnish fresh baked bread every day, and as we hear few or indeed no complaints, it may be concluded that their work gives satisfaction. Every house in the

country, and many in the town, bake their own bread, and prefer it, though a shade darker, to that of the baker. I make no apology for being thus minute. There is nothing, after all, that is so important, as to be able to command good wholesome bread at a cheap rate. And this you may gather, from what has gone before, may be safely counted upon. And if the taste of yourself, or any of your family or friends, is peculiarly fastidious, imported flour may always be had, at prices varying from ¼d. to 1½d. sterling per lb. above the market price of the home-made article. Oatmeal is always to be had, and generally of excellent quality ; in fact, it is seldom offered for sale unless good ; but there are, at least I have always found it so, certain shades of difference in the quality, known only to the initiated ; its price may be safely stated at 1d. sterling per lb. occasionally higher, seldom lower. Previous to the disease, by whatever name it may be known, of the potato, this valuable esculent was the staple article of home consumption and of export ; and we trust that we shall still be able to reckon upon the superiority hitherto conceded to us, if it be the will of Providence to shield us from any further attack of this justly dreadad foe. There was a tolerably fair crop last year. There are both old and new potatoes now (middle of August) in the market, the former are selling for 1s. sterling the bushel, the latter at 2s. or 2s. 6d. The general price of the potato is, however, from 8d, to 1s. sterling ; lower at times, when taken in the Fall—as we call it, but Autumn as you call it—from off the field. I know of no part of America where they can be had of a better quality ; and they certainly are cheaper here than any where else.

Owing to almost every house of respectability being provided with a kitchen garden, of larger or smaller dimensions, we have not hitherto had much of a vegetable market to boast of, or any thing at all of a green-grocery establishment. But this will not long be the case, and symptoms of amendment in this respect are already perceptible. The owners of small pieces of land in the vicinity are bringing into town (besides early potatoes) lettuces, cucumbers, green peas, French beans, sweet herbs, &c., which are sold at low, perhaps too low prices, to encourage competition. As the town fills up—which it is doing fast—there will be a greater demand, and consequently a more abundant and more varied supply. Beets, carrots, turnips, cabbages, turnips solely for winter use, may be had in the autumn in as great abundance, and I understand as cheap or cheaper than in most parts of Britain.

I regret to say, that we at present are obliged to depend almost

entirely on our neighbors for the article of fruit; and I regret it the more, because it proceeds solely from our own negligence—to give it no harsher term—that it is so. There is nothing to impede or hinder our having as good fruit, and in unlimited abundance, as our neighbors; nor do I despair of seeing an alteration in this respect. There were some few bundles of trees (grafted apples) sent on speculation from the States this last spring; these were purchased at fair prices: and if there are more brought next year, and the circumstance of their importation better known, I have no doubt there will be a greater competition. I shall, however, touch upon gardening by and by; at present we will keep to the market. Currants, black and red; gooseberries, garden and wild; Kentish cherries, damson, and a few other kinds of plum, and some tolerably good cooking apples, are all we have to talk about—not to boast of—in this respect. I must not forget to mention, though, that strawberries, delicious in flavor, may be had in profusion, in the month of July; these are brought in nicely cleaned from the foot-stalks, in wooden buckets, and sold from 2d. to 3d. stg. the Winchester quart. Raspberries, equally good of their kind, are still lower in price. Both these last are wild, but none the worse for that, I assure you. The good dames are purchasing them by the bucket-full, for preserving—a good store of these notions being considered almost indispensable; a certain share of the housewife's reputation depending upon the goodness and variety of these, displayed at her dinner or tea table. Cheese and butter, though not actually vegetables, are, however, of vegetable origin; and as they must come in somewhere, may as well be disposed of here as elsewhere. There is very good cheese made by some of the farmers in the Island, and what is so made, is either bespoke or immediately bought up; consequently, there is a necessity of importing—and this is from either England, the United States, or Nova Scotia: vessels loaded with apples, cheese and cider frequently arrive in the fall from that Province. If you are fond of cheese, therefore, bring some with you to serve you until you determine whether to make your own, or by whom you will be served. Where there are meadows and cattle, there will be butter—and, of course, in this, as in all other countries, it differs greatly in quality; there is always, however, plenty of good to be obtained, at from 4d. or 5d. to 1s. sterling the lb., either fresh or salted down. I have, as you perceive, given the prices of every thing in sterling money, though all our monetary transactions are in currency, which I will endeavour to make you understand. A sovereign, which with you is twenty shillings, is with us worth thirty, a crown is 7s. 6d.; a

shilling, 1s. 6d. The rate of exchange is 50 per cent., or, in other words, when we wish to change sterling into currency, we add one half; when, on the contrary, we would ascertain the value in sterling of a certain sum in currency, we deduct one third. Thus, if your income be £300 sterling, it is equal to £450—made so by adding £150 (the half of £300) to itself; on the other hand, when you are told that the income of the Treasurer, or of the Assistant Judge of the Supreme Court, is £500 currency, you deduct £166 13s. 4d., which leaves £333 6s. 8d.; you will also find that £166 13s. 4d. is the half of £333 6s. 8d., which, being added together, makes £500. And this piece of knowledge may serve you in this wise: £350 stg. gives you a larger income than any Officer of the Colonial Government, with the exception of the Chief Justice—who has now £600 sterling per annum, but whose successor will have, it is thought, but £400 sterling, or £600 currency. A person, therefore, who has the last mentioned income, will be able to live with the utmost comfort, mix with the best society, and see his friends as a gentleman would wish to do. The income of the Collector of Imposts and Excise is £260 currency, or £173 6s. 8d. sterling; so that you will be perfectly right in concluding, that with £200 sterling per annum a man with a wife and five or six in family may live with respectability and comfort, and educate his children; whether he will be able to save much out of that sum, will of course depend upon himself—for Champagne, and Madeira, and Sherry, and Port (though not burthened with the same duties as with you, and of course not costing so much) make, if used too freely, serious inroads upon income; and frequent dinner parties are attended with the same consequences everywhere, I believe.

I have been laboring to convince you, that if you determine to come among us, you will not starve. The next thing is shelter; so you must be provided with a house. I will, therefore, begin with one that is vacant; it has just been left by the Chief Justice—who has resided there for some time—for a house of his own, a little out of town. This house is now to let, and is situated at the western extremity of the town, opposite to the Government House, from which it is separated by a creek. There is a dining-room, drawing-room, and study on the first floor, and five or six bed-rooms on the second; beside servants rooms, nursery, &c., (upwards of 20 apartments, in all), kitchen, out-houses, and stables. It is situated and fronts on the harbor, and commands an extensive view of it and the rivers running into it; has a flower and kitchen garden, and is unconnected with any other building. Now the rent of this house—

and I think it is the highest of any in town—is £90 currency, or £60 sterling. A very good house, sufficient for a family of 6 or 7, may be had for £20 to £30 sterling, according to the situation and style of finish. I am, of course, now speaking of the town of Charlottetown. In some other letter I will enter fully into the prospects of those who come with the intention of settling in the country; the information with respect to prices, &c., will be of service to all who think of emigrating. For the present, farewell.

LETTER IV.

You feel convinced, I trust, that there will be no want of either food or shelter, if either you or your friends make up your minds to cast in your lot with ours. You will of course bring a fair supply of your usual clothing with you—not too much, however; for there is no necessity for it, and might be the occasion of loss rather than gain. Wood for fuel is not as yet very scarce, and if it were, we live in such proximity to the inexhaustible coal mines of Pictou, that there is no cause for apprehension on that score. But man, you will say, has many and other wants besides food and shelter, fire and raiment. True! man is a gregarious animal, and as soon as the appetites he has in common with those of inferior degree, as he is pleased to term them, are satisfied, he looks for society. The intercourse of mind with mind. Now, previous to making any disclosures on this head, I need not, I am sure, impress upon your mind the necessity of discretion. The character of a community, as well as that of individuals, is deservedly dear to them respectively. Yet what need I fear? My determination is, throughout this correspondence, to keep always in view, and act up to the maxim, "nothing to extenuate, nor set down aught in malice." Are you anything of a geologist?—for if you are, you will understand me when I tell you that as yet, society in Prince Edward Island is in what may be called the transition state; there are all the elements of different degrees mixed up together, and but few of them exactly defined. Royalty is represented in the person of the Lieutenant Governor, who holds a species of Court, which exercises, on the whole, a beneficial influence on those who are within its sphere, and it takes a wider range than you would at first be aware of. Whatever may have been the opinions formed of the political characters of our rulers, their personal habits and demeanour have been those of gentlemen. The force of example has had its usual effect. From long continued intercourse with the different Governors and their ladies, as well as those connected with them, there has silently arisen and been quietly fostered, a subdued tone and gentleness of manner that in all probability would never have existed had such example been wanting. On entering the drawing-room of Government House, on a company night, you will perceive

no marked difference between the people there assembled, than you would on a similar occasion, in any town in Britain. I doubt if there are many places of the same population, that could on occasion, turn out a more select party, than could Charlottetown. Independent of the Governor and his family, there are the members of the Executive and Legislative Councils, the Chief Justice, and the other Judges of the Supreme Court, the Treasurer, Secretary, and Officers of Government; the Attorney and Solicitor Generals, with the members of the bar; the garrison, the magistrates, merchants, and others whose wealth, position or influence entitle them to the *entree* of our Provincial palace, combine to form a society of much greater pretensions to real gentility than larger places without such adjuncts. And though the doors of Government House are not open to all indiscriminately, they are sufficiently easy on their hinges to allow the admission of any one, who, with a proper introduction, can produce the passport of good breeding and manners, with a sufficiency of this world's goods to enable him to maintain the port and bearing of a gentleman. In fact, this facility of advancing one-self from a lower to a higher station, by means of industry and good conduct, has a more beneficial effect than the very parties who are engaged in the struggle are aware of; and as every one may rise from the rank in which he at present may be placed, into that above him, till he reach the first rank, so every one endeavours to qualify himself for promotion, attended with greater or less individual success, but with certain general amelioration. You will bear in mind, that the population of the town is about 5000; it is however, increasing, and will continue to advance in a more rapid manner than it has hitherto; for to its natural increase must be added that of those emigrants who are not intending to become farmers, prefer remaining here instead of going further into the country. The population of the whole island doubles itself in sixteen years, and this will of course, have a tendency to multiply the numbers of merchants, mechanics, tradespeople, in fact, of all descriptions of people. I think, upon the whole, I am warranted in saying, that all classes of emigrants will meet with as good society here, as they have been accustomed to meet in their own country, though not in as great numbers. Although all people in all ranks may be said to live well, there is little or nothing that may be called dissipation or extravagance. Those of moderate incomes are not seduced into a ruinous style of living by the necessity of doing as other people do. And as this is not the place for acquiring rapid fortunes, so neither is it one which a person with an overgrown one would be likely to make his place of residence, nor is it desirable that he should.

The tendency to dissipation and extravagence is in all societies sufficiently rapid without its being accelerated by examples whose propensities and style of living, though perfectly in accordance, it may be, with their means, are not to be imitated with impunity by those upon whom Mammon has not looked with so favorable an eye. As the most of those to whom emigration presents itself in its most attractive form are persons with families either in possession or expectancy, you will of course require to be instructed as to what prospects of having their children properly educated you may honestly and fairly hold out to them. Although at first sight, judging from the state of the building called the "Central Academy," you would be led to suppose that the love of learning had not reached across the Atlantic, to this part, at least, of Her Majesty's dominions, on a further acquaintance, you will find that we are better provided in this respect than the exterior of the said building promises. There are three Masters in the Academy, supported partly by salaries paid out of the Provincial Treasury, and partly by tuition fees, through whose means boys may be rendered well qualified to enter upon the duties of the several occupations to which they may be destined by their parents, or to commence a collegiate life, as many have done, with honor to themselves and credit to their tutors. There are Colleges both in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, which are capable of affording as good an education as is generally required in America to fit its youth for either of the learned professions. There are not wanting, also, establishments where the female part of the rising generation may be initiated into those useful or ornamental branches of education generally considered essential to the formation of the minds and manners of the sex. There is every reason to hope, too, that each succeeding year will be attended with improvements both in society and educational acquirements; there is evidently a beginning of emigration of a class by which both the society and themselves will be reciprocally benefitted; of those whose means in densely populated Britain with difficulty enable them to keep up with those of their own standing, but which, when transferred hither, put them beyond all fear of want, either present or prospective, and enable them to indulge in the comforts and amenities of life, and the prospect of their children's future success, which in an overcrowded country, where the numbe of aspirants is great and the competition eager, is at best problematical.

While the utmost anxiety is manifested concerning our temporal interests, those of Religion have not been neglected, and the first glance at the town on entering the harbour will convince you of this fact. The cathedral-looking spire of the Catholic Chapel, surmounted with its splendid gold cross, is conspicuous from afar. There are

also the Churches of England and Scotland, and the Chapels of the Wesleyan Methodists and the Baptists—all of which are highly respectable places of worship, and, what is of more importance, filled with large and I believe attentive congregations. I may as well close this epistle with some description of the town itself, before I take you into the country, which it is my intention to do, if nothing intervenes to prevent it, in my next letter. Charlottetown named after the consort of George the 3rd, is situated on the S uth side of the Island, and as the site for a metropolis has been happily chosen, placed on the North side of as fine a harbour, the Port Joy of the French, as a seaman would wish for, on a gentle acclivity; its streets laid off at right angles to each other, run east and west and north and south, both ends of the former terminating in the water, and the southern end of the latter,—thereby enabling the inhabitants at some future day to construct sewers which will drain the whole completely, and with little comparative expense. There are five squares, one large one in the centre, and four smaller at equal distances from it. The Colonial Building, as it is called for want of a more euphonious appellation, has been placed in the middle of the centre of Queen Square, whether with a due regard to the laws of taste or not, there is a difference of opinion. In this building are the chambers dedicated to the use of the two branches of the Legislature—the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly. The Supreme Court holds its sitting in a room appropriated to that purpose in the basement story, where also are the offices of the Treasurer, Secretary, Judge of Probate, Collector of Excise, Surveyor General and Pro honotar" The Lieutenant Governor has also a room where he is always to be seen on matters of business on Wednesdays and Saturdays. This edifice is of a light-coloured free-stone, obtained from the main land, Pictou and Wallace, in Nova Scotia, and has a pediment, supported by pillars of the Ionic Order, on the north and south fronts. St. Paul's, belonging to the Church of England, is at the eastern extremity of this square, or rather parallogram; with much worse taste, the County Jail is situated in "Pownal" another of these squares; this is a wooden building, however, and may be perhaps got rid of some of these days. Government House, though not exactly within the town, adjoins it, and is a rather tastefully designed wooden building, facing the entrance to the harbour, and presenting an imposing front; it is surrounded by a plantation of various kinds of trees, some indigenous and others of a foreign growth. Strangers are generally pleased with the place. From the situation and aspect of the town, it is both dry and airy, and I may add salubrious. It is surrounded by lots of land, 8 to 12 acres each Lot, called respectively Common and Royalty Lots; but as these pertains to the country more than to the town, I will defer all mention of them till my next.

LETTER V.

There are two main entrances into Charlottetown, generally known by the names of the Malpeque and St. Peter's Roads. The former has been prolonged as far as the North and West Capes, the latter reaches to the East Point, and from these are divergent roads, which lead to the different villages and settlements situate on the coast. There is also another main road, called the Tryon River road, which leads along the South Shore of the Island, terminating at Bedeque. In order to reach Georgetown, the County Town of King's County, from Charlottetown, you must cross the Hillsborough, which you are now enabled to do with ease and comfort, by a steam ferry boat, which has been lately put on the line by T. B. Tremain, Esq., and into which you drive your horse and carriage, and are in a few minutes landed safely on the opposite shore, at a very moderate charge. In the winter, the river is bridged with ice, the distance is about a mile and a quarter. From the Southern side of the river, roads lead you to Orwell Bay, Wood Islands, Three Rivers, Souris and East Point, and by settlement roads as they are termed, to every part where there are inhabitants. The Island which contains on the whole, 1,365,400 acres, is divided into 67 Townships or Lots, as they are more frequently termed, containing with a few exceptions, 20,000 acres each. These Townships are in their turn, subdivided into farms of 100 acres, for the convenience of settlers, and as each farm must have a road to it, the consequence is, that there are few places which present such an extent of road communication as does the Island. In going on a party of pleasure from any part of the Island to another, you need scarcely ever return by the road you went, and not prolong your ride much either. There is no place in America, where so much good land fit for the plough has such facilities for water communication. You cannot place yourself on any one spot in the Island, and be distant

from navigable water more than six miles. This is a matter of more importance than many are aware of; what are termed rivers here, are for the most part, large arms of the sea, in which the tide regularly ebbs and flows, such as the Hillsborough or East River, as it is sometimes called, which runs through the Island, and might be connected with Savage Harbor on the north, by a canal or rail-road of a mile and a half, but from one end of it to the other, you might look in vain for anything resembling a river; it is however, a valuable piece of water; as are the North or York and the West or Elliot Rivers, the conjoined waters of which form Charlottetown Harbor. The West River, however, is headed by a fine stream which runs a good distance into the country, and is perhaps, one of the most picturesque of our so called rivers. Now you shall have your choice of the modes of going down into the country. The mails carriers who are furnished with covered American waggons which hold six inside, will take you as far as St. Eleanor's on the one side, 40 miles, or to Georgetown on the other, 30 miles, for somewhere about an English crown piece. From either of these places, you may take your chance with the mail carriers and go to Tignish, 54 miles, from St. Eleanor's, or 94 miles from Charlottetown, and to the East Point, 40 miles from Georgetown, and 60 from Charlottetown, and when these distances have been travelled, you have been from one extremity of the Island to the other. If however, you prefer it, you may call upon Mr. Mark Butcher, Mr. John Coles or Mr. Cairns, who will furnish you with any kind of turn out you may fancy, from a coach and four to a one-horse fly; if you take my advice, you will order a stout horse, or two if you can afford it, and one of the light Island built waggons, which are at once easy—having good steel springs—and commodious; having space for two or four persons as you may wish, and ample room for baggage. For this, you will pay, if with two horses, 10 shillings sterling per day, if with one, 6s. and 8d. sterling, every additional horse will be 3s. 4d. sterling, 5s. currency per *diem*. If your route lies towards Prince County, you will do well to make St. Eleanor's or Green's shore your head quarters, were either at Ness's or Green's, you will meet with good accommodations, as the latter, however, is a strict teetotaller, you must take with you whatever in the way of drinking besides good water, you may require. At both places, you will be able to get the best oysters the Island affords, as many as you please—for breakfast, dinner and supper if you like it—without additional charge.

Travelling is cheap, very cheap; you seldom pay more for a good substantial meal than 1s. sterling, often much less. Excepting at St. Eleanor's and Georgetown, you must not expect to be furnished with wine; and if, therefore, you are particular in this respect, you must provide accordingly. Horses' provender is, as you may suppose in a country were the average price of oats 1s. sterling the bushel, proportionately low. You will be able to take a good look at the country without fear of being fleeced by the way, before you determine upon anything, and this I would by all means recommend. If your route lies into King's County, Georgetown or the Head of St. Peter's Bay, will be your best stopping places. We will talk over that, however, when you come. Your next proceeding must altogether depend upon your means and the mode of life you intend pursuing. You say you have rather upwards of £3000, and that your family consists of yourself, a wife, and two children. You may therefore reasonably calculate upon a pretty large family before you are fifty years old; and if you are prudent, you may with your means, if life be granted, keep them comfortably, educate them respectably, put the boys in the way of getting their own livelihood, and leave the girls, if they should not get married, above want. In the first place, I must tell you that money is of much more value in this country than it is in England; that is of real not nominal value—the legal rate of interest in this country being six per cent.; so that your £3000 stg., if put out to interest—which is easily done—will yield you an income of £270 cy. per annum; see Letter 3, this of itself will enable you to live, even in Charlottetown, with great comfort and respectability. Those who anticipate large families, and they are rather fashionable on the Island, prefer going further in the field. If, therefore, £500 or £600, or even more, of your capital be invested in a farm, you may become the owner of a hundred acres of land 28 or 30 of them under plough, a good house, barns, &c., a couple of horses, and other stock in proportion; and you will then have left an income of £200 currency per annum. If you have brought your own furniture, it is well; if not, you can purchase here with the proceeds of what they sold for as much as you will immediately want. A good farm servant will cost you from £24 to £30 currency, £16 to £20 sterling; women servants for £9 to £12 currency, £6 to £8 sterling. If you are any thing at all of a farmer, or even a prudent man, you ought not only to live well, but after a little time to be able to lay up a trifle, which you may either add to the parent stock, or lay out in the purchase of land or in the greater improvement of your farm, or otherwise,

as you please. I can now do no more for you, every thing must depend upon your own prudence and your own exertions. All that I can say is, that if with such a fit out and such pecuniary advantages, if you do not "go ahead," it will be your own fault. So much for *yourself*; as to your friends, or those who may apply to you for advice, you may say to them, if they are well off, "the advice that my friend has given to me is equally applicable to you;" if they are in a lower station of life, and depend upon their labour for their subsistence, they may be well assured that if they are willing to work as hard, or perhaps harder for a few years, than they were accustomed to at home, they may, with prudence and economy, coupled with sobriety and industry, in a little time lay the foundation of an independence for themselves and families, and be enabled to dismiss all fears of going upon the parish for subsistence in their old age.

The best plan for a single man who comes out, is at once to hire himself as a servant to some farmer, and if he is wise he will not stand upon the question of wages; nay, more, it would be better for him to go for nothing than do as some do, take a farm in the woods and begin cutting down on their own account. There is in every country something new, something peculiar to it, either as respects soil, climate, mode of culture, management, &c., which it is absolutely necessary that a stranger should be made thoroughly acquainted with, before he can successfully commence business on his own account. There is much to be learned, and much to be unlearned by the agricultural labourer of an old country, on his coming into one covered with primeval forest. A year or two spent in this way is sure to tell to advantage in future; he can be looking about him in the mean time, and when he at last settles down in the woods he knows what to go about first, and does not begin with doing that which probably had better have been left undone. Above all things, do not encourage them in the idea, as too many have done, that by crossing the Atlantic the emigrant bids farewell to the necessity of exerting his industrial energies; do you, on the contrary endeavour to impress upon their minds the greater need there will be for taxing them to the utmost, assuring them at the same time that they will be sure to reap a full reward. In the first place, after laboring awhile for others, he will labor for himself; his progress in the beginning will not seem very rapid, but as acre after acre of the forest disappears, and corn-fields and meadows take their place, he begins to find that he has risen in the scale of society, has advanced in his own estimation and in the

estimation of those around him, and this will add vigour to his exertions. In the next place, instead of looking upon his little family as an incumbrance, he views them with a pleased and satisfied air, and rejoices to think that in the course of a year or two he will be able to avail himself of their aid, both for his own and their advantage. If he is a man of good sense and reflection, he will soon perceive that there is no fear of their not being able to do well for themselves. All that he has to do is to work hard and give them, as he will easily be able, a good education, and he may then, if he pleases, throw them off as a hen her chickens, nothing doubting but that they will do well, provided he has brought them up to habits of industry and sobriety. He will not have been here long before many will be pointed out to him as having arrived in the Colony without a shilling in their pockets, but whose ready hands and willing hearts have achieved a glorious independence, and secured for their possessors respect and esteem.

LETTER VI.

In answer to your enquiries respecting those desirous of emigrating and who, brought up to labor, have accumulated a little property, and who, when they land in the Island, may be expected to have from £100 to £500 sterling in their pockets—I cannot, you will easily see, lay down any one course of proceeding that will exactly fit every individual case. Some general rules of conduct, however, both previous to leaving their old homes and after they have arrived at those destined to be their new ones, may prove useful. I would in all cases advise the bringing as little baggage as possible; it will, as a general rule, be better to part with furniture, carriages, ploughs, &c., and bring over the money, and furnish oneself with what is wanted here. There are many reasons for this. The expense of packing, carriage to the place of shipment, freight across the Atlantic, and the damage which necessarily attends removals, packings and unpackings, will be found to have added so much to the price, as well as lessened the value of the property, as to make them, in most instances, far more expensive on their arrival than better articles new from the workshop. It is true that costly pieces of furniture, which must, if parted with, be sold at a considerable sacrifice, will prove, as may some other things, exceptions. Above all things, do not advise, or rather endeavour to prevent, the bringing of agricultural implements; they almost invariably turn out failures. Wheel carriages, of all kinds, are too heavily built in the Mother Country to suit us; all our roads are free from stone, and the heavy tires to the wheels and the loads of iron with which they are encumbered, are so much useless weight. The soil of the Island may be said to be homogeneous, or light friable loam, (you shall have an analysis of it some day); and experience has proved that the iron mould-board —Wilkie's—Scotch plough is best suited to its general purposes. One of these, full mounted with whipple-trees, &c., complete, may be had for 40s. to 45s. sterling; Harrows, from 30s. to 35s. sterling. The cart commonly made use of, costs from £6 to £7 sterling; cart harness, 30s. to 35s. stg.; a horse hay-rake, 20s.; wheelbarrow, 13s.

stg. The above are not by any means the lowest prices, and therefore a calculation may be easily made as to whether the intending emigrant will be a gainer or loser by selling or retaining similar articles of dead stock. All tools of general use, that are easy of carriage and not bulky, it may be safe to bring. A good carpenter's broad-axe, an adze, a few chisels, an auger or two of the screw kind, one or two planes, a hammer and a saw, and such like, are always useful, and, as they may be included in the baggage, cost no freight. Mechanics should bring with them their tools; they will always cost more here than there. Books are always worth bringing, if they are worth keeping; beds and bedding, I would say, ought never to be parted with, unless the distance from the place of residence to that of embarkation should make it necessary or advisable. Persons of the description you have mentioned, will soon have a variety of offers made to them, as well by tenants who are anxious to dispose of their leases, as proprietors who are equally anxious either to sell or lease. And as this is a matter of the utmost consequence to the future welfare of the adventurer, we will give it a corresponding degree of consideration. And in the first place, I would remark, that no man with capital who comes from Europe should go into the forest; and in this Island there is not the least necessity for him so to do; there are plenty of partially cleared farms at all times to be disposed of, and at prices to suit almost every customer; and this arises from a variety of causes. There is all over America, joined to a great propensity to trade, a species of restlessness—or great dissatisfaction with what is our own, and a great cupidity for what is our neighbor's, all in an honest way, that leads to a continual buying, selling and bartering; hence it happens that a man who really is as well located (to use an Americanism) as he well can be, is perfectly willing, if he gets what he considers his clearance worth, to pull up stakes and be off somewhere else; by this means, many a one comes into the possession of property which it would have cost him three times as much to have taken from the wood and put in the same state of cultivation, independently of the time that must have elapsed before this could be accomplished. Again, there are others who have suffered the rent of their land to accumulate, till they must sell either the farm or the stock; and they most generally prefer parting with the former, and beginning with the aid of the latter upon a new place —as we call a farm in the woods; and if he gets any thing like a fair price for his possession, he is very often a gainer. The California fever has caused some very pretty places to change hands, to whose ulterior benefit time alone can tell. Thus, in one way or

another, plenty of cleared land is in the market—and this is either leasehold or freehold. The usual term of lease in the Island is, for 999 years; a few years commonly free, then at 6d. for a year or two, and eventually at 1s. sterling the acre. This seems a very low rate; but when you consider that land is almost valueless until capital is bestowed upon it, in the shape of either one's own or hired labor, your view of the case is altered; it is, in fact, the same thing as paying £100 sterling for 100 acres, upon money borrowed at 5 per cent.; and the misfortune is, that you are paying not only for the productive acres, but the unproductive; and this is one of the reasons why there are so many small clearances in the market. There are some persons abandoned enough to offer land at a forty years' lease; tell your friends to steer clear of these worse than Jews. I would advise the emigrant to be upon his guard when places of any kind are offered, and to be by no means in a hurry to settle himself. Let him look well to the condition of the land, both that which is cleared and that which is in a state of wilderness, and more particularly the latter. If there be a vigorous growth of hard wood —as we term it—such as rock-maple, black-birch and beech, he may be tolerably sure that the soil is good; if, on the contrary, the prevailing wood is white-birch, spruce (or fir, more properly), or hemlock (a species of fir you know nothing about), the soil is questionable. It is, moreover, of importance to have a good lot of fire wood, which these last mentioned trees are unfit for. If there be ten or a dozen acres cleared—that is, cut down and burnt over—from which four or five crops have been taken (the stumps still remaining in the ground), he will probably be able to get it by paying from £15 to £20; and this is perhaps the best kind of purchase he can make; the house he must contrive to make do, for the first year or two. The great advantage of purchasing land of this kind is, that by taking out the stumps from one or more acres, and levelling the land, he may reap a couple of crops without requiring any manure, and then lay it down to grass; the next year, he may be going on with the same process, and perhaps add an acre or two of burnt wood, according to the strength of his family. I would advise him to bear as lightly on his money as he possibly can; he will lay out a pound to more advantage after he has been here a couple of years, than £5 at first. He will learn more by conversing with his neighbours, and watching their motions, than all that I can write, were I to consume quires of paper. I can tell him, however, what he will have to pay for various articles which he cannot do without, and which are difficult to bring with him. The price of the Island cows are from £2 to £4

sterling, according to quality. A 40s. cow, you will say, cannot be worth much as a dairy cow. Why no, perhaps not; but if she be farrow, and turned out in the woods, she will yield him more beef and tallow in the autumn than he can buy of the butchers for twice that money. The breed of cattle has improved wonderfully within these last 20 years; but here, as well as in Europe, you must be provided with good fodder, and plenty of it, warm barns, and good attendance, before you can aspire to good dairies. Horses are plenty, too much so perhaps, and of all prices; good farm horses may be had from £10 to £12 sterling each; £20 sterling is a very high price, and one of the best saddle or carriage horses may be had for that sum, more frequently lower; they are sometimes sent to the Main land, and as the breed is continually improving, from the pains taken to import the best English stock, it is not improbable that some day they may form a profitable article of export. Sheep are also plentiful, and of excellent breed. The Royal Agricultaral Society has by its numerous importations, aided also by those of private individuals, given to the Island a source of wealth that is just about beginning to be felt. We are justly proud of our flocks; but to be properly appreciated, one should have been acquainted with the fleecy tribe about twenty years since. I am wrong, by the way, in calling them fleecy, for it would heve taken the coats of half a dozen, at least, to make one fleece of the present race. They are almost extinct. Lambs of a good sort may be had from 5s. to 10s. sterling; those not quite so well bred, at much lower rates. It is with sheep, as with cows: those who live in the woods are not so particular as to the breed, as those in the clearance—the wandering in the woods is against their having large fleeces. A pig of some kind is, I need not say, indispensable to all classes of settlers. What might have been the original goodness of the porcine race, when imported with the first settlers, is now of no moment; they were suffered to become so degenerate, that it has been no small trouble to breed them out. There is now, however, in all parts of the Island, no difficulty in supplying oneself with good sows. I would most strenuously advise, however, whenever it is practicable, the bringing a gentleman and lady or two—they are not a difficult animal to bring across the water, provided there is room in the vessel, and the master willing. I can hardly say any thing about price: from 2s. to 20s., according to age, size, breeding, &c.

I fear I have exceeded the bounds of your patience by this long letter; there is one thing, however, that I would wish you to impress, not only on your own mind, but upon the minds of those who

may have recourse to you for advice or information, and that is, not to be in too great haste to draw conclusions from first appearances.

The cultivated parts of the country seem to resemble those of some parts of England so much, that many are apt to be led away with the notion, that one has only to pursue the same course here to attain the same results. Accustomed in their own country to see the wonderful effects brought about by the outlay of capital, they are all agog to improve according to the true old English fashion, and consequently set about building, draining, pulling down and setting up before they are well aware what they are about, and consequently, having spent a good deal of money to little purpose, begin to abuse the country, the climate, and the people. *Festina lente* (don't be in too great a hurry) should be the motto of every man who comes into a young country. If they would only enquire after, and wait upon those who have preceded them, and be guided by their experience, they would do well. But, somehow or other, most people have great faith in the proverb of bought wit being the best, and therefore take care to lay in a large stock of the article—paying, of course, the highest price for it.

LETTER VII.

Your intention of coming direct to Charlottetown, I much approve of; a week's residence in town, if the time be judiciously spent, will enable you to determine whether it will best comport with your interest or inclination to remain there, go further into the country, or quit the Island altogether. When the Town was first laid out, it comprised 500 Town Lots; to each of these town lots was appended what was called a Royalty Lot, and a certain number of acres lying between the Town and Royalty were set apart as a Common. This Common was, however, afterwards divided into ten acre lots, and granted to various individuals, in fee simple, and are now the lands of different proprietors, and form, with the Royalty Lots, a good epitome of the whole Island. In the course of a day's ride, you will see the land in every possible variety of phase, from that of primeval wilderness to the highest state of cultivation that the Island can boast of. The humble log hut, with its few acres of stump, to the aspiring mansion with its fields, gardens and pleasure grounds, are there, accompanied by edifices and establishments of every intermediate degree. Nor is there any part of the Island that affords a finer series of views or over more extensive ranges of country, than do the heights around Charlottetown. There are good roads leading to every individual lot, both in Common and Royalty; so that you may either walk or ride through every part of them. Should any of your friends visit the Island in my absence, you may direct them—for want of a more intelligent guide—to enqnire for Mr, Henry Longworth's house in the Royalty—any one will point it out whom he may happen to meet on the St. Peter's or main post road to the Eastward, out of which the Royalty road that leads past Mr, Longworth's diverges. On arriving at the top of the hill where Mr. Longworth's house is situated, formerly called Paul Jones's Hill—why called after that worthy I have not, in my antiquarian researches, been as yet able to ascertain—he will have an extensive prospect spread beneath his feet: the Straits of Northumberland, the entrance of the Harbor, the country for some miles round, a Bird's eye view of the

Town, and the high lands of Nova Scotia in the back ground; altogether forming a picture well worthy of the admiration which all classes of people have agreed to bestow upon it. Turning round and pursuing his course towards the end of the Royalty, a few rods further he gains a most extensive inland view, not only pleasing in itself, but indicative of what the whole Island is likely to be in the course of time. He will at a glance perceive that the surface of the land is undulated; that while there is nothing startling grand or sublime to arrest the attention, there is at the same time nothing of that tameness and monotony that wearies the eye and fatigues the mind. The whole aspect of the scene is tranquil and soothing. As the traveller pursues his journey, portions of the country open out, and in such different variety, that he will be hard to please, indeed, if there be not some of them to his taste. But, what is of equal and perhaps greater importance to the intending emigrant, he can, from a careful study of the different farms in the vicinity of Charlottetown, arrive at as correct a conclusion of what the country is able to produce, as if he had gone much further inland. There are several excellent farmers both in the Common and Royalty, and the spirit of exertion and of rivalry is not confined to those who are agriculturists by profession. Judge Peters, who commenced but a few years since as an amateur, is deservedly reckoned a good practical, and will soon be, I think, an equally good scientific farmer. Hon. George Goodman, Collector of Her Majesty's Customs, has a very pretty and valuable place of his own making. Mr. Peake, a merchantof Charlottetown, is showing the effects of a judicious outlay of capital, and giving practical proofs of the possibility of raising the soil of the Island to a degree of fertility equal to that of the most favored parts of the Mother Country. Mr. George Beer, sen., was among the first to practically illustrate the benefits of liming the land, and the adoption of a judicious rotation of crops. There are many others who are equally as well entitled to praise as the abovenamed, but it would swell the bulk of this letter beyond the proper dimensions to notice them all. There are some gentlemen's seats worthy of a passing glance, amongst several others, Mount Edward, a substantial brick edifice, is tenanted by the Hon. Capt. Swabey; it is owned by the Chief Justice, who resides at Spring Park—which almost adjoins the town, and is a very beautiful place naturally, but capable of being rendered much more so; it derives its name from a copious spring of remarkably pure water, which gushes out of the bank and forms a considerable stream, which will probably at some future time, be brought into the town for the use of the inhabitants, and supersede

the pumps, which afford the only supply at present. ——— Walkinshaw, Esq., is completing a brick mansion begun by the late John Grubb, Esq., at Falcon Wood, on the Hillsborough. William Forgan, Esq., has a house prettily situated on the road, which leads to Mount Edward. I had forgotten to enumerate among the public buildings, in a former letter, the Catholic College, which is nearly completed, and is an imposing structure three stories high, with a cupola, intended for an observatory, and is situated in the Royalty, on the Malpeque or Princetown road, about a mile and a half from Charlottetown. The rooms are lofty and spacious, and from the size and number of the dormitories, are capable of accommodating many students. There is a most extensive view from the observatory, and the building itself is a conspicuous object in the landscape for many miles in the interior. A number of neat cottages, generally of wood, and painted white, give a liveliness and animation to the scene quite American, it is true, but not without a peculiar appositeness and congruity with a country just rescued from the wilderness. It will enable the person who pays attention to the matter to see, almost at a glance, the method of clearing and cultivating land pursued all over the Island, as well as the economy of farm management as it is practised by men in their different stages of progress, from the bush to the clearance. The agents for the different proprietors have mostly their residence in town, and this enables the emigrant to confer with any or all of them without being put to the expense of journeys into the interior, which to some may be matter of inconvenience.

A description of one of the townships, and the manner in which it is laid out into farms for intending purchasers, may be useful, and the description of one will serve for nearly the whole. You may see by the map, that most of the townships take the form of parallellograms, and when the proprietor's agent shows you the plan, you will find that roads parallel to the longest sides have been made, on either side of which are laid out farms, having fronts of 10 chains, and extending into the rear 100, a most inconvenient and awkward shape, as it is a mile and a quarter in length, while it is only 220 yards in breadth; and yet very little, if any, practical evil has hitherto resulted from this, to an uninitiated eye, unaccountable arrangement. The fact was, that the early settlers were all desirous of having fronts on the sea-coast, the only highway then in existence, and as that almost invariably constituted one of the shorter sides of the parallellogram, it became necessary to divide it into the greatest

possible number of fronts, and ten chains was pitched upon, I suppose, as the least number that would be accepted, or that it was decent to offer; and, in fact, when the settler reflected that by the time he had penetrated twenty chains he would have cleared twenty acres, it gave him little trouble about what became of the rest, so that there remained a sufficient quantity of fuel for himself and his descendants; and the same feeling subsists to this day in most parts of the country; and a man takes and pays for 100 acres of land, while he cultivates from five to twenty only. And this because he does not wish to leave himself without the means of obtaining fuel, and likewise because he knows that when his 20 acres in the front are fit for the plough, the adjoining lands become of more value in proportion. And when a man wishes to have a large farm, if he purchases 3, 4, or 5 of these 100 acre lots, his farm becomes accordingly more conveniently shaped for the purposes of agriculture, as it approaches the more nearly the form of the square. When a settler, or rather an intending settler, goes to a proprietor or his agent, the plan is consulted, and the situation of the vacant lots, as they stand upon the plan, is shown; of their real advantages or capabilities nothing can be ascertained until the party goes to the spot, where some of the other tenants will point out the exact *location*—as the Yankees term it—(a word coined expressly for the purpose); and here comes the difficulty that first besets the emigrant. It is next to impossible for him to judge of the quality of the land from those of the adjacent half cleared lots, if there be any; land while under the first process of being converted into meadow, presenting much the same appearance that many other manufactured articles do, in the first stage of manipulation. The half burnt and blackened stumps have a melancholy look in the spring and autumn, when contrasted with the bright verdure in the one, and variegated hues of the forest in the other season of the year; and it is with some difficulty his mind admits the fact, that the whole Island was once in the same cheerless state; nor can he well turn to the neighboring settlers for correct advice in his difficulty; if they wish him to become one of themselves (and this they will be sure to wish if they think he has money,) no limit will be set to the praise of the place and its various advantages; if, on the contrary, they wish to discourage others, that they may themselves cull out the best of the ship and other timber on the unlocated part of the lot; or if they wish to reserve it for expected friends or relations, which is sometimes the case, there

will be no end to the narratives of the badness of the land, the distance from market, the villainous characters of the proprietor or agent, and those innumerable and hitherto unheard of obstacles which self-interest or knavery can always interpose to suit its own purposes. If the emigrant must settle in the woods, let him be careful to look at the appearance of the settlement; in general he will soon be able to see whether the inhabitants are thriving, or likely to thrive. There is always about the honest industrious settler a something which shows that, though laboring under present hardships, and toiling almost incessantly, he sees his way clearly; and that there will, in the course of a few years, be a mitigation of these necessary evils, and, in a few more, independence and comfort will have amply repaid him for his former exertions. The stack or two of grain, the cow or cows, pigs, or sheep, that may be more or less the appendages of the log hut, that does duty for a stable and barn, are perhaps the best evidences he can wish; and the plenty or want of them, the best indications, whether their neighborhood is a desirable one or not. A word or two, by the way, on the subject of log houses. To the ears of most people, even in America, who have been brought up in towns, the word "log house," or "log hut," conveys the idea of all that is cold, wretched, miserable, and desolate, and the outward appearance does oftentimes justify the impression. Large logs, with the bark on, or rudely hewn, and placed one above another, connected at the corners; covered, as to the roof, with sheets of birch bark, the interstices between the logs stopped with moss and clay, one door and one window, and a wattled chimney, does not present, it must be confessed, the most flattering indication of comfort within. But in this, as in many other cases in life, "appearances are deceitful," as the copy-book says; and when you come inside, of a winter's day, if you have to complain of any thing it will be the heat of the atmosphere, and not the cold; and you will oftner than not be pleased at the appearance of content and cheerfulness which reigns within. If it were to be the permanent residence of the inmate and his family, he might be to be pitied; but he knows, and presumes that you likewise know, that he has already got out the logs for a new edifice, and that they are in the process of being squared, and that in the course of a year or two at the furthest he will be the inmate of a more respectable tenement; and that the one in which you are so comfortably warming yourself will be inherited by the cattle, now in the lean-to at the back—to be promoted

in time, perhaps, to the contemplated one, when it shall have done duty for a few years as a dwelling house, and its owner shall have been enabled to build a frame house, weather-boarded, shingled and *painted*.

Before I close this letter, I would mention, that when in my last I spoke of £15 or £20, sterling, being the price of a farm in the first stage of clearance, I meant to speak of the price of the improvements only, when the land is leasehold. It would also form the increased value of a freehold farm.

LETTER VIII.

I would not, for a moment, have you to suppose that I mean to confine you to Charlottetown and its vicinity; on the contrary, I will, if you choose to accompany me, make an excursion to the East Point, and return by the way of Georgetown, the county town of King's County. Prince Edward Island was originally called St. John's Island, and is said to have been discovered by Cabot on the 24th day of June, 1497 (St. John's Day), whence its former name. Although claimed by the Crown of England, it was until the year 1758 in the possession of the French, and by them surrendered to the English at the capitulation of Louisburg, in that year. By the Treaty of Paris, in 1763, the Island, together with Cape Breton, were finally ceded to the Crown of England, and by it annexed to the Government of Nova Scotia. In 1770, it was formed into a seperate Government; but previously to this, it had been surveyed and divided into Counties, Parishes and Townships. There are three counties, Queen's, King's and Prince Counties; fourteen parishes, and sixty-seven townships. The parishes have names, but they are seldom alluded to, except in a bill of indictment; the townships are not named, but are numbered, from No. 1 to No. 67, and are generally termed Lot 1, &c. I mention this in the outset, because in alluding to the different parts through which we may have occasion to pass, I shall so term them. *Allons!* The first township we enter, after leaving the Royalty, is Lot 34; this belongs to the Montgomery family, of Scotland. I ought, before conducting you into the interior, to have mentioned that, previous to and after the survey of the Island, which was completed in 1765, various schemes were proposed for the cultivation of the Island; "among others," according to Stewart*; "the late Earl of Egmont proposed settling it on a feudal plan, his Lordship to be Lord Paramount of the Island, which was to be divided into a certain number of Baronies, to be held of him; every Baron to erect a stronghold or castle, to maintain so many men at arms, and with their under-tenants to perform suit and service, according to the custom of ancient feudal tenants in Europe."

*An Account of Prince Edward Island, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, North America: by JOHN STEWART, Esquire. Printed by William Winchester & Son, Strand London, 1806.

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What a pity it did not succeed. The sixty-seven Knights of St. John, or perhaps the Knights of the Island, as they might have been termed to distinguish them from their brethren of the same name in Palestine, might have been equally famous; and tournaments, real tournaments—as they would have been real feudal knights—might have attracted more spectators than the sham one of the Earl of Eglington. But it is of no use crying for spilt milk, as Col. Crockett says; the Earl's plan fell to the ground, or, in the graceless lanuguage of the present day, was "no go." After this, the whole of the townships, with two exceptions—which shortly after shared the same fate—were drawn for, by way of lottery, by various persons who had or were supposed to have claims upon the Government, and by officers of the army and navy who had served in the preceding war. There are many who are of opinion, that it would have been as well if this scheme had shared the fate of its predecessor. Among others who obtained townships in this way, was the late Sir James Montgomery, Chief Baron of Scotland; and it must be fairly conceded that if all the grantees had taken equal pains to fulfil the conditions of the grant as he did, the plan would not have been so injurious as it afterwards turned out. Lot 34, then, is one of the oldest settled lots in the Island, it having begun to be so in 1770. I much doubt whether there is an acre belonging to it that has not been sold leased; its population at the taking of the last census, in 1848, was 1477—males 762, females 715; it is not, however, the most populous township in the Island, though it is perhaps the wealthiest. It had at the same time (1848) 9762 acres under plough, that is half the township by this time; and the rest of the returns give a similar superiority. We have not time to go off the road now, but I would recommend to all who can afford it (time I mean) to visit Stanhope, Little York, and the Suffolk Settlement. The first is composed chiefly of the descendants of the Scotch, who came out under the auspices of the Chief Baron himself; the names of the two latter sufficiently indicate the former residence of the inhabitants. Before we come to the turn of the road, however, to Little York, we shall have passed some very excellent country seats, and highly cultivated farms, part of the Royalty. Belmont was the property of the Hon. George Wright, Surveyor General, and is in the possession of his widow, a very fine house and beautifully situated, commanding an extensive view of the Hillsborough and the adjacent country; Binstead the property of R. A. Fellows, Esq., is also pleasantly situated, and shows well from the river.

At the turn of the road into Little York, five miles from Charlottetown, resides Mr. James Miller—better known as Miller of French Fort, where he formerly resided; he is one of those men in whom

I take an especial interest. He early in life left his native Scotland, bringing with him stout arms and a willing heart; and after some years of hard work, I have no doubt, has settled down in a green old age, surrounded by his children, enjoying the respect and esteem of those above and below him, owing no man any thing, on the contrary, enabled out of his abundance, to assist those who wish to borrow; but giving himself no undue airs on account of his wealth. Miller is a living instance of what industry, frugality and honesty will enable a man to do in Prince Edward Island as well as elsewhere. There are several excellent farms hereabouts; those good looking cottages belonging to my friends the Robertsons—they add the trade of boot and shoemakers to the occupation of farmers, and they seem to harmonize very well together. When you shall be in want of grafted fruit trees, black thorn, or ornamental shrubbery, Cairns (who lives at Dunstaffnage), will be able to supply you with them; he will give you ocular demonstration and positive proof, that as good fruit may be raised here as in Scotland, if you take equal pains. The neat looking house a little off the road, belongs to Dr. Boswell; it is I have understood for sale. Tracadie House, the seat of the Hon. D. Macdonald, member of the Legislative Council, lies off the road, and cannot be seen unless by going to it, as, by the way, does that of the Hon. Mr. Haythorne, of the Council also. Mr. Worthy possesses a cottage on this road, more to my taste than any I know of. We next come to St. Andrew's, where there is a Roman Catholic Chapel; the house on the hill was built by the Right Rev. Æneas M'Eachern, late Roman Catholic Bishop of Charlottetown; his remains lie interred in the Chapel, his memory lives in the breast of all who knew him, whether of the same faith or not; he founded a college here, which will be transferred to the building mentioned in my last, when it shall be finished. At a little distance on, and on the other side of the river, is Mount Stewart; it is the property of Major-General Sir John Littler, who married the grand-daughter of the late John Stewart, Esq., the former proprietor; it would be worth going over to see, on account of the prospect it affords of the Hillsborough. It was originally cultivated by the French; the ridges left by the plough are quite easily to be seen, though the land is covered with good large timber, and very ornamental too. It might probably be purchased from Sir John Littler, and is altogher a place well worthy the residence of a gentleman farmer, as Mr. Stewart was; the house is old and worthless. The road for some distance after this is dull and uninteresting, nor is the land of the best quality; it is gradually, however, getting into cultivation. As you approach St. Peter's House, the seat of Mr. Worrell, the aspect of the country is more beautiful, and the land

of better quality; it was near to this house that the French had their capital town of the same name. The sites of the houses are still visible through the green sward, for the plough has passed over it; whether it was sown with salt, history does not mention; there was no need however, as no other town will ever rise on its ruins. St. Peter's is a bar harbor, and fit only for fishing vessels; I suspect the town must have been built for the purpose of fishing, and wholly of wood. I do not remember whether there is any fortification near it. We will stop for a moment at St. Peter's house, and for this reason, that it is in the market. The building is not worth a moment's consideration; but go up further on the hill, and under the lee of that fine wood is as splendid a site for a mansion as you will find almost any where. There are upwards of 80,000 acres, which may be had at a reasonable rate; much of it is tenanted, but much more in a state of nature It is nearly all comprised within one parish, that of St. Patrick. There are three rivers now to pass, the most like rivers of any thing we have seen or are likely to see, these are the Morell, the Midgell, and the Marie. The first has a floating bridge during the summer, which in the winter is deserted for one of nature's own making; the others have common wooden bridges. The three streams abound with the sea trout, of great size and exquisite flavor. After crossing the last of these rivers, the road becomes monotonous, as all along the north side of the Island, from St. Peter's Bay and Harbour, there is one almost unbroken line of coast, destitute of shelter. Shipwreck Point and Cove serve to shew that, in severe gales, it is dangerous to have this side of the Island for a lee shore. There are roads at no very great intervals, leading to the South Shore, which, as we shall see, presents an appearance the very reverse, it being an unbroken series of bays, coves, creeks, rivers, and harbours, to the West Cape, the other extremity of the Island. As you near the East Point, the land grows more abrupt, and instead of shelving down to the tide wash with a surface of green, as is the case on most parts of the sea coast on the south, it has an ungainly aspect, from its cliffs of red clay. These, however, have their attractions: early in the spring and late in the autumn, the East Point is one of the best shooting stations, and one where a skilful sportsman may fill his light travelling waggon with wild geese, brant, and blue winged ducks, in an almost incredibly short space of time. Numbers of American fishermen may be seen off this side of the Island, conspicuous from their white duck or cotton sails, specking the expanse of waters which here meet the eye, boundless save where the Island of Cape Breton shows at times like a

dark cloud in the horizon. Rounding the East Point, you come to a very different description of land than any you have yet been made acquainted with; the hills are really worthy of the name, and are in many instances inconveniently steep; this, however, is easily got over, from the nature of the soil, and, as the country gets cleared, from changing the course of the roads.

This will eventually be the most valuable part of the Island, for, in addition to good safe harbours, and plenty of them, the most considerable are open for a longer period in the beginning of winter than those further west. It is in this part of the Island, too, where a fishery, of whatever nature it may be—seal, cod, mackerel, or shore—can be carried on with the greatest facility, and the best prospects of success. The harbour of Souris, and those in Rollo, Fortune, Howe, and Boughton Bays, are easy of access, and may be made when those lying within the Straits of Northumberland cannot. This even now, is no small advantage, and will be more appreciated as the Island becomes more densely inhabited. After having crossed a good many rivers, some by bridges and others by ferries, we are at Georgetown, lying on a noble harbour, easy of access, and completely land-locked. We will, however, postpone any description of it until my next.

LETTER IX.

Georgetown, like Charlottetown, is regularly laid out with wide streets, at right angles to each other. The town lots are parallelograms of about half an acre each, and also, like Charlottetown, were granted originally with a royalty lot of ten acres attached to each. The town and royalty occupy a peninsula, formed by the Cardigan and Brudenell rivers. The Montague—another fine river—is connected with the harbour, which has from that circumstance the name of Three Rivers, which has hitherto been its most usual appellation. The town, like Charlottetown also, is finely situated upon the face of a gentle ascent; but there is this difference between them, that Georgetown has but one square, which is in the centre, and is twice the size of that of Charlottetown. There is a Court House and Jail, built in a reserve off the square. The places of worship are, one belonging to the Church of England, another to that of Rome, a Presbyterian Kirk, and Methodist Chapel. There is, beside, a School House, a very neat building, as is the Episcopal Church. There is also a neat Market House, which is on the square. At the termination of the main street, which leads through the centre of the square, and is part of the road to Charlottetown, there is a public quay, or wharf. The harbour is confessedly one of the best in North America, and is bordered by land in a high state of cultivation, which gives it a most agreeable appearance. It is a common resort for the American fishermen, and when in anticipation of a gale of wind, they avail themselves of its secure position. As many as 200 sail have been seen to enter at the same time, and, after a graceful sweep, come to anchor in tiers, with the regularity of ships of war. If ever a fishery is carried on to any extent in the Island, Georgetown will be its head quarters. You may possibly be surprised at my expressing any thing like a doubt upon a subject of this importance. If it will answer the inhabitants of the neighbouring Union to fit out vessels, which must cruise at such a distance from their native shores, as to be compelled to resort to the Island harbours for safety and shelter; in other words, if it will pay the Yankees to take fish at the mouths of your harbours, why will it not pay you to fit out vessels and catch them yourselves? In the first place, want of capital. We have not near as much capital at command as will suffice for our agricultural necessities. In the next place, we have not men to spare. On the coasts of the United States and the Province of Nova Scotia, the country is rocky and barren, and the population increasing in a ratio that makes it necessary that the youth should go further for a living than their fathers were accustomed to go. Men whose earliest associations are connected with the sea, contract a fondness for the

life of adventure and excitement which it affords; and they with difficulty can be made to undergo the calm, and to them monotonous, labours of the agriculturist or mechanic. Of such men are the inhabitants of these coasts; and a bold, adventurous, hardy race they are. Let men be brought up, however, on a soil that yields a fair return for the labour bestowed upon it; and it is with equal difficulty that you can induce them to undergo the severe privations, accompanied by the uncertain returns to which the life of a fisherman is necessarily subject. The lands on the coast of Prince Edward Island comprise the best of its soil, and the American "old salts" themselves say, that "men possessed of such farms badn't oughter take to fishing for a livelihood." The time is not, however, far distant, when fisheries will be established, and on an extensive scale, particularly if the Americans are allowed to make and cure their fish on the shores of the Island; many of them will settle down, and if they succeed—as they most likely will—others will follow; and as the Island youth are not wanting in spirit and enterprise, many will be induced to join them, and capital will then soon be forthcoming. In the mean time, the best preparation for that state of things is to continue to improve our agricultural resources—the surest means of wealth, and least liable to fluctuation. Georgetown is still in its infancy. Stewart (quoted in my last) describes it, in 1806, as a town in embryo; in fact, 20 years ago, it had not half a dozen houses in it. In 1848, the population of the town and royalty was 678. There are some handsome houses in the town, and well furnished stores. A fair beginning has been made, and there is no doubt that it will go ahead. At the entrance of the harbour is Panmure Island, a very valuable property; it is to be disposed of, and would suit either a private gentleman for a residence, or a speculator for the purposes of a fishing establishment—for which it is well suited. Opposite to the town is Brudenell Point, belonging, I believe, to a Mr. Watson, of Liverpool; it is tenanted by Capt. Byrne, a half-pay officer, who is married to a daughter of Sir Amos Norcott, C. B. It is capable of being made into a beautiful place, as nature has done much for it. St. Andrew's Point is owned by Joseph Wightman, Esquire, formerly High Sheriff of the County. I must not forget a new and remarkably neat *cottage ornee* belonging to Doctor Kaye, in Georgetown Royalty. The Collector of Customs and Excise, Hugh M'Donald, Esq., has a large and convenient house in the town. The Rev. Mr. Lalley, the Rector, is a gentleman of refined taste, amiable manner, and classical attainments. There are many others, with whom I am not personally acquainted. I was on the point of omitting the name of one who ill deserves neglect, and least of all from me. Should I happen to be with you when you visit Georgetown, I will not fail to introduce you to John Llewellin Llewellin, Esq., a man who has done more for the agricultural interests of Prince Edward Island than any other, be he whom he may. He, however,

like many other men of talent and genius, was, when he began, a full half century before the age, in Prince Edward Island at least. Ardent and enthusiastic, though possessed of sound practical views, and adding personal experience with the details of agriculture to extensive theoretical knowledge, he exerted the whole force of a mind of no common cast [illegible] the farmers of Prince Edward Island to a sense of their real [illegible]; and though suffered to toil on without even that cordial [illegible]y which is so cheering and exhilirating to the sons of genius and talent, he still persevered with indomitable spirit, and has been the means of enriching the Island, without adding much to his own coffers. It is to be hoped, that, though late, the Island Legislature will open their eyes to the propriety of granting some fair remuneration for services so freely bestowed, and productive of such benefit.

On leaving Georgetown, you pursue your course on a good and nearly level road, until you come within about 15 or 16 miles of the Charlottetown ferry. Fine farms, and well cultivated, continually meet the eye, and force upon the reflective mind the conclusion, that the country through which he has been travelling abounds, or may be made to abound in all that is necessary to the rational enjoyment of life. One thing should also be borne in mind, that all that has been done has been effected by the force of individual unassisted manual industry. Out of every 50 men who have landed in the Island, and commenced the subjugation of the forest, upon an average, I am convinced that there were not two who had a hundred pounds in their pockets. The pioneers were in almost all cases poor, very poor; and when at times I get impatient, and complain that so little has been effected, the knowledge and recollection of this forces me to confess, that I ought rather to admire the firmness and perseverance that has accomplished so much.

On coming near to Vernon River, the nature of the ground and the character of the scenery undergoes a complete change, and you frequently encounter steep hills and deep ravines; but you are in a great measure compensated for this, by the extensive views that from time to time claim your attention and compel admiration. It is well worth while to pause at the summit of Tea Hill, which is about three miles from the ferry, and look around you. One of the most extensive and varied views that the Island affords, here meets the eye. It is a favorite show place of the Charlottetonians, and is deserving of all the praise that has been bestowed upon it. We are now at the ferry. I see that in this imaginary journey, I have not said a word about the accommodation that you will meet with on the road. I am not going to mislead you on this subject, by telling you—as is often the case with those who are anxious to make every thing appear *coleur de rose*—that you can travel as much at your ease and comfort as you would in any part of America; for, in fact, travelling for mere

pleasure is not so frequent in the Island, as yet, as to make hotels plenty, and of the first rate; but of this I will assure you, that neither you nor your horse will starve, or be left without shelter or beds. You must not expect luxuries or dainties, however. At Georgetown you may be well and comfortably accommodated; Mrs. Wickwire is my landlady, and a capital good one she is too—every thing clean and comfortable. Sixteen years ago, I woke one morning in what was then called Georgetown—about half a dozen houses; and on enquiring for breakfast, was told there was nothing in the house, nor anything to be had in the *town*, for love or money. I managed, by dint of much foraging, to get four eggs, which cost as much as four dozen in Charlottetown. Times are, however, altered; there is now plenty of entertainment for both man and beast.

LETTER X.

In coming from Georgetown to Charlottetown, we might have taken another and more interesting, though not so direct a route. "Murray Harbour," a flourishing Settlement early peopled by emigrants from Guernsey and Jersey, is the first you meet—it is to the southward of Georgetown. You will be able, on paying them a visit, to satisfy yourself that, if Prince Edward Island wants fruit, the blame rests on the inhabitants, and not on the soil or climate. I am of opinion, that ere long there will be no need of stimulating the farmers to turn their attention to the planting of orchards. They are beginning of themselves to see that the doing so will prove a source both of pleasure and profit. I have seen apples from Murray Harbour that would do credit to any country. As you round the coast, you meet with the Settlements of Wood Islands, Belfast—settled by the late Lord Selkirk, of North West celebrity; Orwell Bay, Pownal Bay—both famous for oysters; Pinette, Cherry Valley, and various other Settlements. At Point Prim is Light House, erected in 1845, the only one in the Island at pre as our commerce increases, there will doubtless be others built. Much has been accomplished of late years, in placing buoys, and erecting beacons; and whatever more is required will, I doubt not, be done cheerfully, it being self evident that money expended on objects of such acknowledged public utility, is capital well laid out. We will now take another direction, and point our steps towards the North side of the Island; and here your best plan will be to visit Little York and Covehead, with which you cannot, I think, fail to be pleased; from thence you will proceed to Brackley Point, an old settled country, and bearing the marks of its age in neat, clean, well built farm houses, with large barns and convenient out-buildings. It is inhabited by a worthy and industrious race of men, chiefly from Scotland. The father of James M'Callum, Esquire, who died some few years since, at a very advanced age, was one of the first British settlers. It was extremely pleasant to hear him detail the difficulties that presented themselves on their first attempting to effect a Settlement, and their modes of meeting and surmounting them. He little dreamed, as he has often told me, that when he was carrying on his back fifteen or twenty miles a single bushel of potatoes, around the margin of the shore, he should live to see the day when he would be able to drive in his carriage from one end of the Island to the other. There is a wonderful difference between the hardships—if they be hardships—that are to be encountered by the settlers of the present

day, and those in the time of the good old man my authority. From thence an excellent road leads you to Rustico, which is inhabited by many of the descendants of those French who were in the Island at the time of its capture and final cession to the British Crown. They seem to have lost all knowledge, as far as I could ascertain, of the part of France from which their ancestors originally emigrated; nor am I sufficiently conversant with the *patois* they speak, to be able to afford any clue from that source, nor indeed is it of much consequence: they have become completely English, or rather Prince Edward Islanders, as far as country is concerned; and take little or no interest in the changes that have taken place in their parent land, if indeed they are cognizant of them. They are a simple, hardworking, honest people, marry very early, and bring up large families virtuously upon a very little. The costume of the men differs not at all from that of others in the same class of life; not so, however, with the females: they still cleave to the usages of their great-great-grandmothers. The use of the bonnet is unknown; instead thereof, the head is covered with a close-fitting scull cap, made of cloth or printed calico, and bound with red or blue worsted tape; a short jacket of woollen cloth in winter, and of cotton in summer, with a petticoat of homespun cloth composed of cotton and woollen, of a striped pattern invariably. A few years since, moccasins, made of undressed hide, was the sole covering for the feet of both sexes; these are now rare, having been superseded by the shoe. A white muslin kerchief, stiffly starched, forms the usual covering for the head going to Chapel —on which, to their credit be it said, they are constant attendants. It is pleasing to add, also, that they have become within the last ten or twelve years steady and consistent disciples of Father Mathew, which has added not a little to their respectability and comfort. In speaking of the character, habits and manners of the French of Rustico, I include the whole of those on the Island, and they constitute a great portion of the population; how many I cannot say, for there was very properly no distinction ever made between them and the other natives of the Island, in taking the census. They may be described as a hard working, inoffensive race, extremely attached to their own ways in general, though a spirit of improvement is gaining ground very rapidly. You will hardly believe that, within not very many years, the old one-handed French plough was still in use—yet such was the case; the superior utility of the Scotch plough with the cast-iron mouldboard is now, however, acknowledged; and there are to be found among them very respectable ploughmen. They are excellent mechanics, where great neatness is not required —hence the shipyards abound with French shipwrights. It is not, however, as either farmers or mechanics that they appear to me to be, after a few years, likely to exert their energies. Their ancestors

were fishermen, and they have evidently inherited a love for the craft. Every Frenchman either does or would own a fishing boat if he could; the consequence is, that they are a mongrel race—half fishermen, half farmers; and though they are themselves sensible that they are rather incompatible vocations, yet, as they are contented with little, and as—independent of their fondness for the occupation—a quantity of fish is indispensably necessary to them, as being to a man Catholics, they still continue to fish. I look, therefore, to these people, as forming the *materiel* from whence the fisheries are to be supplied, when, in the course of time, increase of population shall have rendered it necessary for them to look to other means of subsistence, and increase of capital will cause the fisheries to be regarded as affording an eligible means of investing its surplus. And this is the more probable, because they are of all people most strongly attached to the soil. While those of British descent are upon the most trivial prospects of success in another place ready to sacrifice their present advantages, the Frenchman sticks contentedly by the home of his youth, perfectly satisfied if he has enough to eat and drink, and wherewithal to be clothed; and as this is generally to be had (though some of them have suffered great extremes of hardship, in consequence of the failure of the potato and other crops) they have gone on increasing in a ratio that would hardly be credited with you. They marry at the very earliest possible age, and contrive to bring up large families upon means which would hardly suffice an Englishman to subsist upon alone. Yet they are vigorous and healthy, and a cripple is seldom seen among them. I have in a former letter mentioned Lot 34 as being one of the best cultivated and wealthiest townships, though not the most populous. Now Lot 24, in which Rustico is situated, contains a greater number of inhabitants than any other lot in the whole Island. Let us compare the population with the number of acres cultivated:—

Lot 24—population in 1848, 1938; acres cultivated, 6085.
" 34— " 1477; " 9762.

And yet, Lot 24 has a great number of English, Irish and Scotch, who are equally as good farmers as those of Lot 34; but there are few French residing there, while Lot 24 is principally inhabited by them. In a politico-economical point of view, I consider the French population as an acquisition, who will continue to furnish a supply of labour at a cheaper rate than can be expected elsewhere. I shall probably trouble you with a few more observations and some calculations on this head, when I come to inflict upon you to a learned dissertation upon the population of the Island and its comparative increase; I will, therefore, spare your feelings at present. Rustico is the seat of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Charlottetown, a man whose amiable manners, strict attention to the arduous duties of his

high calling, and total freedom from political or religious animosity, has deservedly caused him to stand high in the estimation of the public, and higher still in the opinions and regard of those who, like myself, are honored with his private friendship and are better acquainted with his claims to esteem. There is a very fine Chapel here, as you may suppose, already a conspicuous feature in the landscape, and which when finished will be one of its greatest ornaments. There is a neat edifice belonging to the Church of England, with an increasing congregation; service is performed regularly on Sundays by a clergyman of the Establishment, the Rev. C. Lloyd, A. B., of Cambridge University, who has the care of this and a small Church about eight miles nearer town, on the Malpeque Road, called Milltown Church. Lot 24 is one of the few Townships on which the Proprietor or any of his family are resident; William Hodges, Esq., the cousin, and Messrs. Alfred and John Winsloe, the sons of John Hodges Winsloe, Esq., who are also his Attorneys, live here, and may materially assist you if you should agree with any of the tenants for their improvements. The distance from Wheatley Bridge to New Glasgow Bridge, is about 3½ or 4 miles. The Settlement of that name is situated on a river, which they are now very properly denominating the Clyde. It is one of those places to which I am particularly fond of calling the attention of strangers. Pause for a few moments on the summit of the high hill which overlooks the river and commands an extensive view of the well cultured fields and comfortable homesteads of the village (though it is hardly an appropriate term) on the other side of the splendid arm of the sea which, for want of a more expressive word, we are forced to call River. The view itself is a fine one, and would be so termed in any country; but when you reflect that about thirty years since it was as dense a forest as that which you see in the distance, and that its present civilized and prosperising appearance is the work of men who, unaided by any, or very little capital, save that which I mentioned in my former letters had been the common one of all the first settlers—"thews and sinews," and minds determined not to allow themselves to be overcome by difficulties, but on the contrary, to leave none unsurmounted—your reason will be convinced (whatever may be the strength of your own prejudices, or the effects of other mens instilled into your mind) that this is not an unfavorable country for an enterprising and resolute man. You will, on further reflection, be also further convinced, that the country is just in that state when its energies, if assisted by a judicious outlay of capital, may be developed to an extent hitherto not dreamed of. New Glasgow is the property of men whose names will be sufficient to indicate the place of their birth—'Samples,' 'Lairds,' 'Arthurs,' 'Orrs,' 'Stevensons,' and others whom I cannot at the moment call to mind; Alexander Laird,

Esq., a member of the Provincial Parliament, has a splendid farm of his own making, and is considered one of our best farmers. You will have to pass through the village on your road to Cavendish, an older Settlement, settled precisely under the same auspices. I will venture to say that you will be pleased also with the appearance of this place; it is below New Glasgow in point of situation, as the latter has the advantage of a sheltered site and an excellent harbour. I have not time in this to go to New London, though I should not wonder if you were already sufficiently tired with these journeys on paper; and indeed I would stop here, did I not wish to show both you and your friends that, in coming to Prince Edward Island, wherever either you or they may choose to pitch your tents, you will find a certain extent of civilization and circles of society that, though at present small in diameter, will, in the course of a very few years, make this country, all things considered, a desirable place of abode for those whose aim is, to live comfortably, though not luxuriously, and who are anxious to leave their children with a fair prospect before them of doing well for themselves. It is with this view that I have been more particular in mentioning names than I otherwise would.

LETTER XI.

On leaving Cavendish, you proceed by a not very interesting road of a few miles, to Fyffe's Ferry; and from this, and all through the New London Settlement, the character of the scenery and appearance of the coast is totally different from any other part, whether on the North or South side of the Island. The South-west river—or, as it is more usually termed, the "Sou'-west"—meets the Gulph of St. Lawrence a little below the narrows, where the ferry is situate. The whole place is remarkable, and is, in my humble opinion, well worthy of a short pause. Seaward, high hills of drifted sand form a barrier against the waves of the Gulph, which, when agitated by the storms from the north, sends its billows with a rapidity and grandeur little inferior to those of the ocean with which it is so closely connected. The South-west penetrates, in a serpentine manner, far into the interior, and is curtained at intervals between high lands on either side, offering a more picturesque appearance than any other of these noble arms of the sea. It is not exactly fed by tributary streams, but it branches off, as the tide runs further inland, into Mill, and Trout, and Long Rivers, as they are called. The whole of the New London Settlement will, at some future day, be a more attractive place for strangers than it is at present. The hilly nature of the road, and its leading nowhere but to itself, prevents it from receiving that justice to which its fertility and beauty entitles it. Most of the people in this, as in all new countries, have little or no idea of the pleasure derived from the contemplation of fine scenery. I was pointing out to a young and, in his way, a very intelligent man the beautiful, as it appeared to me, alternation of wood and water, forest and meadow, hill and valley, which are so conspicuous and so varied at every turn. What a splendid place! I exclaimed. It is not amiss, said my companion; but it would be much better if it were not for these confounded hills, and these cursed crooks in the river. To this view of the matter I could make no reply; but turning to contemplate the scow, or lighter, I was struck with the clever contrivance for getting horses and carriages in and out of the scow, without the least trouble to the ferryman or the passengers. A bridge, or platform on hinges, is fixed at each end of the boat, which are square, and are made in the form of an inclined plane; and when the boat reaches the shore, the ferryman, without leaving the boat, disengages with his foot a lever, which causes one end of the platform to fall on the shore; he then beckons the traveller to ride or drive in, and when he has so done the ferryman, by a touch of the hand and foot, brings the platform to its horizontal position—and thus time and trouble are saved to both

parties, a great improvement upon the old fashioned way of managing things. Fyffe and his sons are highly respectable and obliging men, and when they have ferried you across, will give you directions as to the nearest road you are to take to reach any particular place, for these are numerous, and all in one way or other equally attractive. The whole of the New London Settlement is well inhabited, and their good substantial wooden houses, with extensive clearances and well stocked, give testimony that they have not been idle during their sojourn. They are principally Lowland Scotch —Campbell's, Cousins', M'Ewens, Johnstons, &c., &c.—an industrious, thriving race. Passing through these, we come to what is called Barrett's Corner, and here the roads branch off to Malpeque or Princetown, St. Eleanor's, and Charlottetown. I should have told you, however, but that I hope you would have given them credit for, that there is no want of places of worship through all the route we have been travelling. At New Glasgow and Cavendish there are Presbyterian Meeting Houses; and at New London there is, beside the Kirk, a Church belonging to the Episcopalians, which is served by the Rev. Dr. Wiggins, in common with his own at St. Eleanor's, where he resides. We are now at Barrett's, and I am in doubt whether I shall venture to take you to Princetown, or, as I in common with many others rather prefer to call it, Malpeque—the Indian name, signifying, as I think I have heard, "Large Bay;" of this I am not certain, but when my intelligent and amiable friend the Rev. Silas T. Rand, Minister of the Baptist persuasion (who is absent at Cape Breton, on a pious visit to the Indians), returns to Charlottetown, I will endeavour to get from him the true meaning of this and other Indian names. I am in doubt, I say, whether to go or not, for to tell you the truth, it is many years since I was there myself, and blind guides, you know—however, 8 miles lead you to Princetown and its Royalty; Princetown, however, is but a name as yet; not so its Royalty and the lots adjacent: this is an old settled Country (speaking in the language of P. E. Island), and contains many very highly respectable families. The Rev. Mr. Kier is a man of learning and one of the leaders in the Presbyterian Church. The family of the M'Nutt's is coeval with the settlement of the Island by the British. Near to it, is Darnley, the residence of William Clark, Esq., M. P. (Member of the Provincial Parliament); Darnley is famous for its cheese. From Barrett's, you also go to St. Eleanor's, on the way to which you pass through a little cluster of about a dozen houses—hamlet, I suppose, you would call it—called Traveller's Rest, from the only house it but a few years since boasted. St. Eleanor's is situated on an isthmus, formed by Richmond Bay on the North, and Halifax or Bedeque Bay on the South. It is an increasing village. The building containing the County Jail and

Court House, me ts you at the end of the Charlottetown Road; it has a rather imposing appearance. There is also a handsome Church of England close by, they have just received from England an organ for its use; a neat School House, Ness' St. Eleanor's Hotel, a small place of worship belonging, I believe, to the Bible Christian Methodists; these, together with some good stores and private houses—among the. those of the Rector (the Rev. Dr. Wiggins), Dr. Bell (the surgeon and medical man). The house in which the Post Office is kept, by a Mr. Fraser, is a neat and well finished building; and many others. I need say little more of St. Eleanor's: you cannot fail to be pleased with it. A good inn, with an obliging landlord and landlady, plenty of oysters just out of their beds, and ready for you just before you turn into yours, and good viands and kind treatment of all sorts, are a great recommendation to any place. There are a good number of fine well cultivated farms in the neighbourhood; Dr. Wiggins has set a very good example, and is considered as among their first farmers—and where there are so many good, this is no small praise. I hope, one of these days, to give you something like a sketch of the state of farming in the Island; and I know of no man upon whom I could more confidently call for information to be relied upon than the Doctor. The village of St. Eleanor's is on a perfect flat, and contains nothing of a view, at but a very few rods' distance on either side; the country becomes very pretty, totally different, however, from the scenery of New London. St. Eleanor's is generally the terminus for strangers travelling for mere pleasure; you will, however, I hope, try and get as far at least as Port Hill, which you can easily accomplish in time to return to Ness' in the evening, the distance being in the whole 10 miles. Port Hill is owned and occupied by James Yeo, Esq., M. P. P.—another of the many instances of what industry, prudence and determination will effect. Mr. Yeo is a native of Bideford, in England, and came to this country in a subordinate capacity, some 25 or 30 years since, and he has to his credit been the architect of his own fortune—and a very pretty one, by all accounts, it is. There is a Church of England here, the officiating Minister of which is the Rev. Mr. Cooper. Near to Port Hill, is Lennox Island, not otherwise remarkable than as being inhabited wholly by Indians—of whose habits and manners I will endeavour to give you an idea, at some future period. Richmond, or Malpeque Bay, is a noble piece of water, as is Cascumpeque or Holland Bay, in which the water is so deep, and the shore so bold, that a large vessel can load with timber a few yards from the bank. After this, there is no harbour of any note the whole coast from Cascumpeque to Lot 1, and from thence round to the West Cape, Lot 7, is one unbroken line of coast, save a few creeks and inlets, perhaps. Lot 1 is tolerably well settled, but the other Lots from 1 to 13, inclu-

sive, had not at the last census, 1848, 500 souls in any one of the Townships respectively. In some, the land is swampy and stony; in others, there are large tracts of peat; these, however, will be of value at some future day, when wood shall have become scarce. There have been, and are a number of fine vessels building in and about Richmond and Cascumpeque Bays, and there are large cargoes of timber and lumber shipped from them yearly. There has been a road within the last 15 or 18 years to Lot 7; the land, though of a fine quality, is not much sought after, as being so far from market, and the want of a harbour is a sad drawback. Lot 15 is principally inhabited by French, who have a Church there; as is also Lot 1, where also is a Church. There are various other places more or less worthy of attention; I must not, however, forget the Settlement of Miscouche, inhabited by French; it is part of Lot 17, and not far from St. Eleanors; it is well worth the ride to it; it has a neat Chapel. I will now leave you to recruit from your fatigues at St. Eleanor's. Our next and last journey (be we thankful, say you) will be to Town, by the way of Bedeque, Tryon, De Sable, &c., where I think I may promise you more variety, and a more settled country.

Richmond and Cascumpec Bays are well situated for the fishery, and I doubt not but at some future day will be the occasion of making those Townships situated on these shores populous.

LETTER XII.

Since writing to you, I met with a friend who thoroughly knew that part of Prince County with which I told you I was not personally so well acquainted as with the rest of the Island, and I in confidence showed him the draft of the letter I had last sent. *Blind guides, indeed!* said he; I am sorry you sent such a description of that part of the Island which lies to the Northward of Port Hill, and the more so, as there is no part of the Island where land of good quality can be had in such extensive tracts—a matter of some importance, where a number of people from the same parish or neighbourhood are anxious to emigrate in a body, so as to be able to keep up the same social relations in the country of their adoption as they had maintained in that of their birth. Cascumpeque harbour, he added, deserves a rather more minute description. The entrance to it is over a bar, which has sixteen feet of water upon it at high tide. Leaving the Sand hills at the entrance, you pass the mouth of the Kildare River on the North, and the commencement of the narrows, a sort of shallow lagoon of various width, from one mile to three, between the Sand hills and the main land. Here are extensive marshes, on which, as well as on the Kildare Sand hills, a large quantity of hay is cut. The Harbour takes a sweep to the Southward, having on the one side good improved farms, terminating in what is called the "Point Farm"—the property of Samuel Cunard, Esq., in front of which large vessels may load, by means of a plank from their side to the shore—and on the other, Savage Island, which is covered with pine wood, and forms a perfect shelter for the harbour, which from the front stretches out into an extensive bay, six or seven miles wide. On the South is the "Black Bank," a large tract of land, part of Lot 11, composed entirely—to the extent of some thousand acres, and having a depth of at least ten feet—of peat moss, excellent for fuel; with the exception of this, from Lot 6 northward the land is not, as you have been misinformed, *swampy* and *stony*; but, on the contrary, of a good quality, and the swamps of any extent few. At the head of the Bay, there are two arms, the one leading past "the Village" towards Lot 11, where it terminates a short distance past the residence of James Warburton, Esq., M. P. P.; the other, called Mill River, crossing the western road at Yeo's Mills, an excellent establishment, comprising both grist and saw mills. The farms on both these rivers and their branches contain land of excellent quality, and for beauty of situation will bear comparison with any in the Country.

The Cross Roads, or what might be termed the village of Cascumpec, is about a mile North of the harbour, at the head of the Dock Creek. The Dock and Kildare Settlements are chiefly inhabited by Scotchmen, whose farms at once attest their industry and intelligence. There is a Presbyterian Kirk here, but much too small for its congregation, who contemplate building a new one; an Episcopalian Church is about being erected near the Cross Roads. From Cascúmpeque to Tignish, the road passes through a great deal of land still in a wilderness state; but you cannot fail to be struck with the beauty of the Settlement at the head of the Kildare; this river is crossed by a bridge of upwards of 200 yards in length; the settlers here also are mostly Scotch. You next arrive at Little Tignish, a Settlement entirely French; and next, at Tignish, where is a very handsome Catholic Chapel. This Lot (1) is also settled by French, but others, natives of Britain or the Colonies, have been added to them, whose good example begins to be already felt. There is an immense quantity of the very best land still lying in a state of wilderness, from no other reason than that no one likes to be the first to break ground; the winter road, however—which traverses it from South to North, a distance of about 30 miles—is now beginning to be sprinkled with a few houses. As a fishing station, the Island does not possess its equal. The best *ground* is round the North Cape, sometimes on one side and sometimes on the other, and boats frequently fish within hail of the shore; there is a boat harbour at Tignish, and a good beach at Little Tignish; while the harbour of Cascumpeque affords excellent shelter for schooners from all winds; bait, too, may be had in abundance. There are a number of respectable families in Cascumpeque, said he; Gordons, Forsyths, Wells', &c., to whom I may add, Nicholas Conroy, Esq., ex-Sheriff, and formerly M. P. P.

I am happy in being able to do justice to this part of the country, which I have never seen, and to derive my information from a source which for correctness I can rely upon. I have given my friend's account of the place, as far as I have been able, in his own words.

We will now resume our journey from St. Eleanor's towards town. On the road to Green's Shore, you will pass the farms of the Darbys, highly respectable people and old settlers, or, rather, the descendants of old settlers. On the Shore you find the Greens, with good substantial well-built two story houses. A public wharf has been built here, and, as I mentioned before, a village called Summerside has arisen, and will, I think, soon extend itself to St. Eleanor's—which is but a mile and a half distant, and the intervening space almost as level as a railway. The packet from hence to Shediac—affording a communication weekly with Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and thence to the United States—is now, and will be in

the course of a few years, a matter of no small consequence to Summerside and St. Eleanor's. Should the projected railway succeed, it will increase both in population and value beyond any present power of calculation. Bedeque Bay is a noble piece of water, a splendid roadstead, of which Wilmot Creek and Dunk River are the harbours. At the head of Wilmot Creek is Bedeque House, built by Alexander Campbell, formerly Treasurer of the Island, and now owned and inhabited by Evan Thomas, Esq. There is a good bridge over the Creek, and the lands are highly cultivated around on both sides. After leaving this, we come to Bedeque proper, if I may use the term; there is here, independent of a great number of excellent farm houses, a collection of buildings belonging to mechanics and others; the meeting house, built by that respectable body of Christians the Wesleyan Methodists, with its graceful tower and steeple, confers at once beauty on the scene and credit on the people. There is a snug little cottage near it, where my friend Mrs. Hooper, who keeps the Post Office, will also give you a good cup of tea, a dinner or a bed, as you may be inclined; there is also a public wharf; in short, there are all the requisites of forming a town, and, by and by, a populous one. I must not pass by the establishment of Joseph Pope, Esq., M. P. P., for many years Speaker of the Assembly; it is a desirable place for a man of capital, and is in the market. You may see a full description of this, and other property which Mr. Pope it seems, wishes to dispose of, in the *Royal Gazette*, of Charlottetown; and, as the advantages are by no means overcharged, I have much pleasure in referring you to it. But Bedeque is a large word, and to go over all its numerous roads—which, by the way, are kept in the best order, for which this same Mr. Pope is justly entitled to due credit—so as to point out its various beauties and advantages, would take me more time than I have to spare at present. All I will say is, that if I were an emigrant coming out in search of a property which would not only yield a present profit, but increase in value with the lapse of years, I would prefer Bedeque to any part of the Island. I dare not commence any enumeration of the various respectable families which compose its population. Many of them came from the now United States, in the time of the struggle for independence, and were called Loyalists; to these have been added others, from various parts of the world. Bedeque is, I would say, the residence of a numerous, respectable and intelligent yeomanry, the best staple for any society; the elegant and the ornamental can easily be added to it, with benefit and effect to both. How effectually does the combination of good roads, clear air, and a continually changing but always inviting prospect, give a cheerfulness to the mind and elasticity to the spirits; so bowl we on till we come to Tryon. Here a fine scene awaits us: a well cultivated country, fertile fields, churches, meeting houses and school houses, and the ap-

pearance of the beginnings of wealth and accumulation. Both at Bedeque and here, and in fact all along to town, we see fast disappearing the unsightly make-shifts that are always attendant upon the commencement of civilization. The log house and barn have given way to well built and well painted frame buildings. In many places you may trace, and the act is accompanied by peculiarly grateful sensations, at least to me, the progressive steps. The first rude hut, now picturesque in decay, but still propped up as a shelter for sheep; the more substantial one that followed, doing duty as a byre for cattle; and if you take some pains to examine the respectable looking story and a half edifice, with its green or mahogany painted front door, and four windows, two on each side, and the pediment shaped apartment in the centre of the roof, with its ornamental window, you will find that its architecture is not all of the same age; that the projection at the back was the first essay of the owners toward a frame house, and which was in its day, no doubt, considered as an effort. Here, then, you have four eras in house-building under your eye at the same moment; in the next generation we shall have brick or stone added to it. But we must be getting on. It is curious what incongruities you do meet with in a new country. About a mile from the place where you stop to bait in Tryon, in the midst of the woods, you come across an old dead tree (rampikes we call them here, *unde derivatur* I know not), upon which, at about 15 or 20 feet from the ground, you see projecting from it, on the one side, a sign board, and on the other something like the old brass drums that were formerly used in the army; upon a nearer inspection, however, the sign bears the name of "Webster," and the brass drum turns out to be the sign of the golden cheese; the blue ends being indicative, I presume, of the richness of the article within, on which is painted the address of the owner, and the weight, &c. On the side of the cottage, near to this "hollow beech tree," is a long black board, signifying that all sorts of ham, bacon and cheese are to be had within, together with reindeer's tongues; on applying for the dainty provocative last mentioned, I was told they had been left behind, somewhere in Lincolnshire, I believe; the golden cheese and the long list of tempting relishes were brought out and displayed as letters of credit and recommendation, I suppose, testifying that the exhibitor was a man of substance in his own country. Before you can well think of it, if you have a pleasant companion by your side, or are yourself of a contemplative disposition, you are in Crapaud. Here is a pretty little Church, and near to it is the house of the Rev. Mr. Read, the Episcopal clergyman; this is also one of those places of which there are many to be found in the Island, that one can't help saying to oneself, here is now a Settlement that is in such a state of advancement that two or three more families would constitute a society that would leave little to be wished for; their best

recommendation, however, is their being seen. From Crapaud, a few miles' drive brings us to Sable; these two places have retained their French appellations, although there are no French residing in either. Here there are two very pretty seats belonging to the Messrs. Marshall, one on either side of the road; they are rather too close to the public thoroughfare for my fancy, but that is to many others a great recommendation; I like the taste displayed in the shape of the houses, however,. The two places, with the Mill and Bridge, form a pretty picture. After you get at a little distance from the Bridge, on the rising ground, turn round and give your imagination a little scope, and you may conceive that in the course of a few years, this cannot fail to be a very interesting scene; Nature has done every thing for it, and it wants but little of art to make it complete. A house built on M'Quarrie's Point (I believe it is called), would complete the picture. I have been told, that our late lamented Governor, Sir Donald Campbell, Bart., was much struck with this view, as, indeed, how could a man of his unquestioned taste fail to be? Continuing our journey, we come to the head of the West or Elliot River, which, you will recollect, leads into Charlottetown harbour, and I should be pleased we had to descend the river, which affords in a short space the most varied, and at the same time striking and beautiful succession of panoramic pictures that I have ever seen in the Island. Keeping to the carriage, however, we shall pass over a very interesting part of the country. At the head of the river, near the bridge, is Bonshaw, finely situated, and though, in consequence of not having been resided in for some time, the house has suffered severely, the place is capable of being made a most agreeable residence. We next come to Dog River, of which I have little to say, than, like the others, the place and scenery are highly pleasing; after passing through a well cultivated country, the North River Bridge attracts your attention: this is one of those that also lead into Charlottetown Harbour; there are several very pretty seats in its vicinity. The Hon. Capt. Rice, member of the Legislative Council, has a very attractive seat called Upton; Mr. Vance has also another; but I see it is time to make some apology for the length of this letter—the best I know of is, Farewell.

LETTER XIII.

The first circumstance that will be likely to make the liveliest impression during the tour we have been making, is the total absence of beggars. Mendicity is not to be met with out of Charlottetown, in any of its numerous phases, and even there it is the result of vice or imprudence, and in no great degree. It is perfectly true that you will meet with the children almost every where without shoes or stockings; but this arises, not from the want of the articles, or the means of obtaining them, but because they are not willing to submit their feet to the confinement. These articles are generally left, except when going to Church, at home. The size of the men, and their freedom from personal defects, will also strike you. At church, or market, at a public meeting, election, or any place where a multitude is collected together, observant strangers make usually the remark, "what a number of tall men you have, in proportion to the number assembled." This shewed itself more conspicuously when we were in the habit of attending militia musters; the men then being formed into rank and file, gave a better opportunity of noticing the fact. This, I take it, arises from the people having from the hour of their birth a sufficiency of healthy food, combined with labor, without being overworked. Another and more important reflection will, I think, arise: how is it possible that these people are able to keep themselves from starving, let alone having food in such abundance as to nourish the stalwart fellows I see every where around me? You will say to yourself, and truly, if our lands in England and Scotland were to be tilled in the imperfect and slovenly manner that the lands are, as I perceive, tilled here, our farmers, so far from being enabled to pay the enormous rents they are in the habit of paying, would be bankrupt in the course of the first year. And then, again, you will come to the obvious conclusion, that if science, skill and capital are superadded to labor, that the returns will be proportionably greater. I used formerly to think that the Islanders were the laziest people under the sun—of North America, and I still *say* so; though since I have read Professor Johnston's account of the state of Agriculture in the Eastern States of the Union, and of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, I begin to *think* differently. I wish the Professor had been induced to pay us a visit, I have an idea that he would have given an impulse to the growing

spirit of agricultural enterprise, by assuring our farmers that at all events they were no worse than their neighbours, and that the soil under their management was, on the average, far better; that their insular situation, the numerous creeks, abounding with muscle and oyster beds, the quantity of sea weed and mud, rich in all that tends to fertilize land, are so much more within reach than similar advantagess within the reach of their neighbours, that they really ought to be much superior farmers to any of those in these less favored regions. Shakspeare says, that man has seven ages; I will not say that countries have so many, but they most unquestionably have their periods of infancy, adolesence, maturity and old age. We are in the second of these categories. We are young and healthy, full of strength and vigour, if we knew well how to exert these energies with most advantage to ourselves, and consequently to the general benefit. We have long wanted the schoolmaster among us, and now we have got him, we go "unwillingly to school;" still, necessity is a severe old dame, and will not fail to accomplish that which unassisted reason might be unable to manage. We will not suffer ourselves to doubt but that the good sense of the natives, stimulated by the example of better educated strangers, will point out the necessity of concentrating all their faculties and energies, and bringing them to bear upon the hitherto generally neglected but noble art of Agriculture. As to want of market—the usual cry—they must be taught and convinced of this unquestionable truth: that wherever the necessaries of life can be produced in great cheapness and great abundance, they will make a market for themselves. We want capital, that is true; but then, labor is capital; manure is capital, and the very sea that surrounds us, and the portions of it that wash the very shores of our farms, are all capital, and all, if rightly used, will beget other capital, and it, in its turn, be productive of riches. "Whoah! stop! now you are on your hobby-horse, and if you don't get off, I'll bid you good bye." Well, I will; but *apropos* of horses, that is another thing that will astonish you—rather. There are more horses in P. E. Island, than in any other part of equal extent and population, I am sure, in America. The males, in 1848, from the age of 16 to that of 45 years, were returned at 12,318; and in the same year the number of horses are stated as 12,845, that is to say, that every man compellable to turn out on active service in the Militia, might bring his horse; and then there would be upwards of 500 to spare. Time, however, and time alone, will bring the remedy; so long as every man is a master farmer, and cultivates his own few acres, he must himself keep the cattle to do the work with—as there is no getting others to do it for him, for love or money, as the saying is. The same number of horses, better bred, and better kept, and of course stronger, would unquestionably be enabled to perform twice the quantity of labour, and of consequence support twice the number of

population, and thus in effect reduce their own numbers proportionably one half. The circumstance of their being so many horses, is a proof of wealth, whatever it may be of prudence or economy. Another, and a very great difference between the travelling in Prince Edward Island and the adjacent Colonies, is, the want of those apparently interminable forests that are so complained of by travellers visiting the latter. It is true that a great, by far the greatest part of our Island is still in a state of wilderness; but the roads that lead through these are cultivated, more or less, on both sides. The circumstance of its having been divided into Townships, and the necessity of putting inhabitants upon the land to save them from escheat, has produced this—a small good out of a great evil; but such is the fact, and a very important consequence results from it in the winter season; after a great fall of snow, the roads, which would otherwise be impassable, are immediately it is practicable, put into a state fit for travelling. This is effected by the overseer of the district warning all the people within his charge to turn out with their horses, oxen and sleighs, and go repeatedly over the road until it is sufficiently broke to allow of a safe passage for the casual travellers. In consequence of the number of people on the high roads, this is easily effected; it is, in fact, more of a frolic than any thing else; so that there is no fear of any very lengthened interruption to social or commercial intercourse. You will have observed, also, that our roads are much better than the nature of the soil at first promises. You know the old adage, "Foul way shews fair land." This, however true in the moist, or, as Sam Slick would say, juicy climate, in which you rejoice, is totally inapplicable to the warmer, drier, and more healthy atmosphere that surrounds us.

Near to Charlottetown, it is true, where the different roads converge, and where the travelling becomes increased, the roads in proportion shew the effects of wear and tear, especially in the spring & fall. This is, however, an evil that brings with it its own remedy. The increase of wealth consequent upon the greater increase of produce, will enable the good people of Charlottetown to make the entrances into their city—as, I suppose, it will soon be termed—of a more durable material. The opposite shore of Nova Scotia will supply us with rock for centuries of centuries.

There is one thing I most sincerely regret, and that is, there is no good map of the Island now to be purchased. I have seen, it is true, one, published by James Wyld Charing Cross, East London, dated of the present year, 1850, said to be "originally surveyed by Major Holland, with additions, to 1850." Mr. Wyld, I am sorry to say, has been imposed upon. The map alluded to is from the original plate published by Holland, and does not contain a tenth part of the existing roads. The County line between Queen's and King's Counties, remains in this map as it originally stood; whereas there

has been a considerable alteration in it. It gives, it is true, the form of the coast, and the subdivision into townships and parishes, and, so far, is of use; but the names of the places laid down either do not exist, or have been changed; independently of which, there have some hundred Settlements and Villages started up in places which the bears, foxes, and loupcervers were wont to consider as their exclusive property. This, however, will, I trust, soon be remedied. George Wright, Esquire, the Surveyor General, has one in preparation, and will, it is probable, publish it. A map of the Island, composed from the actual surveys of the different townships, and laying down carefully and accurately the different lines of road, together with the names and situations of the different Settlements, is a great desideratum, and would, I doubt not, recompense the outlay of skill and labor to any one who should undertake the publication.

LETTER XIV.

An account of any country is, in the eyes of some people, altogether imperfect, unless it contains something like statistical information—something solid—something whereon to ground conclusions, the result of calculation. I am happy that it is in my power to gratify the wishes of yourself, or any of your friends, in this respect, and trust that, in so doing, I shall be as little tedious as the nature of the thing will admit of.

Mr. Stewart, in his account of the Island—to which I have before referred—published in 1806, although he gives the number of townships which were settled according to his idea of the terms of the Grant, and those which were not, has not enabled his readers to come at any thing like a certainty as to what were the numbers of the inhabitants at any given period. By referring, however, to the documents mentioned by him, I have ascertained that, in the year 1797, there were but 3,567 persons of all ages and both sexes then resident in the whole Island: a very small number indeed, considering that if the terms of the Grant had been complied with, at the very lowest scale of computation, there ought to have been twenty years previous—in 1777—6,700 inhabitants; if by the word *settler*, was intended to be meant a man of full age, there ought to have been that number of male adults. Be that as it may, I can find no other data whereon to form any calculation, until the year 1827—a period of 29 years—during which time, the natural increase of the population, combined with the addition made by immigration, raised the population to 23,266—of which, 11,976 were males, and 11,290 females; at least, such is the return given by those appointed to take a Census of the Island, under an Act of the Colonial Assembly, and which, I am persuaded, is as correct as these things generally are. In the year 1833, six years after, another Census was taken, which gives as its results, 16,840 males, and 15,452 females—total, 32,292; the ratio of increase during that time being 1504 and 1-3d per annum. Eight years after that, 1841, the returns are:—Males, 24,063; females, 22,970: total, 47,033—the ratio of increase being 1842 and 3-8ths per annum. The last Census was taken in 1848, which gives 32,065 males, 30,569 females—total, 62,678. The increase during the seven years from 1841 to 1848, was 15,644; being at the rate of 2134 and 6-7ths per annum. You will see by the above, that from

1827 to 1841, a period of 14 years, the population had somewhat more than doubled; but during this time there had been considerable immigration. From 1833 to 1848 (15 years), during which the emigration was equal to the immigration, the population had increased from 32,292 to 62,678, making a difference in these 15 years of 30,386; if to these be added 2234 and 6-7ths, the average yearly increase, as shewn above, it will make the increase 32,602 and 6-7ths, or something more than doubled in 16 years. The immigration during the last seven years, has been as follows:—

England,	347
Scotland,	1055
Ireland,	1214
British Colonies,	331
Other Countries,	66
Divided by 7,	3013

430 3-7ths per ann.

I think I am fairly justified in asserting, that the emigrations to Canada, the United States, and different other places, are fully equal to the above, and that we may therefore conclude, the natural population has doubled within the last 16 years. I might convince you of the correctness of this conclusion by a variety of ways, which, however, you would, I doubt not, be rather spared. There is one thing which I will observe, and I do it with not a little pride and satisfaction—that the total of the public money found necessary to bestow on the poor, was, in 1849—and that is the highest sum ever paid—£350 currency, or £223 6s. 8d. sterling; this gives a tax of something more than 1d. currency, or ¾d. sterling, per head; and if a similar sum of £350 currency, which was voted in the same year for the support of the Lunatic Asylum, be added, it will only double the tax, 2d. currency, or 1½d. sterling. I mention this, to show that we are free from what seems to be an ever increasing and almost intolerable burthen in the old countries, a poor law. This tax is paid, too, out of the general revenue, which makes it literally unfelt.

I will now call your attention to some particulars connected with the increase of the population, at these different periods. In these new countries, one, perhaps, of the best criterions of the real increase of wealth, is the comparative increase of cultivated land. In your country, where all the land is cultivated, no such distinctive mark can be afforded; here, however, every acre of land redeemed from its wilderness state and subdued by the plough, may be computed at an addition of £3 sterling, at least, to its sunken capital.

There were computed to be—

In 1827,	59,909	cultivated acres,	or 2 2-5ths to each individual.
1833,	94,631	do.	upwards of 2 9-10ths, or nearly 3, to each individual.
1841,	141,580	do.	a little upwards of 3 to each individual.
1848,	215,389	do.	upwards of 3 2-5ths to each individual.

This gradual but steady increase in the acquisition of arable land is to my mind, one of the most convincing proofs of the increasing prosperity of the Island; it is a fund which no other failure than that of the seasons can ever effect. It is also—as I will, I think, be able to shew you—a continually increasing fund; I mean, as sunken capital—independent of the annual returns. You have seen that, in the space of 21 years, each individual in the Colony has been enabled to add an acre of land to his capital; now, if in 1827 he could support himself upon 2 2-5ths acres, the produce of the additional acre goes towards profit, expended either in the shape of stock, houses, barns, implements of husbandry, or additional comforts and luxuries. The same proportional increase will be found to have taken place in the stock and annual produce, with the exception of the year 1848, when the country was suffering from the conjoined effects of unfavorable seasons and the Potato murrain—or by whatever name this dreadful scourge is most correctly indicated—when a new severe but, thank God, only temporary blow was given to the prosperity of the Island. The produce of the acre, and the increase of stock, however, are given as nearly the same throughout the different periods at which the different Censuses were taken. The following is a table, shewing the produce of the respective years, and the increase or decrease:—

1827.	1833.	1841.	1848.
	HORSES:		
3977	6299	9871	12,845
	NEAT CATTLE:		
22,925	30,428	42,414	49,310
	SHEEP:		
39,859	50,510	73,642	92,785
	SWINE:		
21,531	20,702	35,522	19,863
	WHEAT—bushels:		
No return.	128,350	153,570	219,787

	BARLEY :		
Do.	38,850	83,299	75,521
	OATS :		
Do.	261,664	611,844	746,383
	POTATOES :		
Do.	1,310,053	2,230,114	731,575

I am well aware of the objections that may be made to the accuracy of these returns, and there are several among ourselves quite ready to prove, as they assert—and I doubt not, with some show of truth—their incorrectness in some particulars; but these are, I believe, common to all statistical returns. There will in all communities exist men who, from some motive or other, give false answers, making themselves to be either richer or poorer, as they may conceive it may tend to their supposed advantage or otherwise; still they afford good grounds whence to form a conclusion, that the people of the Island are not going backward; and the face of the Country bears testimony to the truth of the correctness of the returns, in their most important particulars, the increased cultivation of the soil; and I will myself vouch that the increase is, if any thing, underrated, than otherwise.

You will readily perceive the lamentable falling off in the Potato crop, and the consequent decrease in the number of swine, which at that time depended on this crop for subsistence almost entirely; the grain crops are also nothing equal to what, considering the improvement beginning then to be felt and the increase of population, would have warranted. We must not, however, arraign the decrees of an all-wise Providence, but endeavour to extract good out of seeming evil. And this has, I hope, in some measure been effected. Our farmers, or the majority of them, are, I think, fully aware that the potato is not now to be relied upon, as it used to be, as one of the staple productions of the Island, for export or for the sustentation of cattle during the Winter—and have accordingly betaken themselves to the raising of Turnips, particularly Swedes, which stand keeping over the Winter best—carrots, parsnips, and beets; with what success I will afterwards shew, when the returns of the Royal Agricultural Society are published.

There are a number of other particulars, all of which are equally indicative of the increasing wealth and prosperity of the Colony, derivable from these returns. In 1841, there were 75 churches; in 1848, 109—being an addition of 34 in eight years; and these, I am happy to say, are continually increasing: so in school houses—in 1841, 116; in 1848, 182; being an increase of 66.

Grist Mills—in 1841, 87;	in 1848,	116,—increase,	29.
Carding Mills,	" 11;	"	27,	"	16.
Saw Mills,	" 83;	"	139,	"	56.

How many threshing machines, moved by either horse or water power, existed in the Island previous to 1841, I have no means of accurately ascertaining; but I should think that if I put them down at 100, I should have exceeded the true number; there were in 1848, 246. This last circumstance affords testimony not only of the increasing wealth of the farming population, but of the increase of knowledge and a determination to avail themselves of those facilities for economizing labour which so abound in older and further advanced countries. The use of winnowing machines—or fanners, as they are called here—has become almost universal, so much so, that they are manufactured in almost every district in the Island; as are drill barrows, horse rakes, and various other labour-saving instruments.

I grieve much that our last Census was taken at a time which, perhaps, has been the darkest in our annals. If the account were to be taken—as I trust it will be—in the course of next year (1851) —when there is to be one universally for the British Empire—it would tell a different tale from that of 1848; although the Island has not yet wholly recovered from the years of distress, arising out of bad crops and the almost total failure of the potato. It was, I assure you, a melancholy sight, to see every cart going to the country with a barrel of foreign flour, to be paid for, not in produce of a different description, but in hard cash—come from whence it might, and at however great a sacrifice. It is matter of great thankfulness, however, that there is no instance on record, however poor some of the new settlers may be, of any lives having been lost, as in other countries. Another season or two of average harvests, and the black years will be matter of history only.

LETTER XV.

The Commerce of the Island has increased, as a matter of course, in a ratio corresponding with its increase of population. It is to be regretted, however, that our public documents are not as full in these particulars a few years since as they are at the present day. I am, therefore, unable to give you any account of the amount of exports and imports for the year 1827. The revenue, however, collected that year, amounted to £5456 16s. 11¾d. I cannot, either, easily ascertain the number of vessels, with their amount of tonnage, built in that year. We must, therefore, be content to begin at 1833, of which year, together with those of 1841 and 1848, the following table will present you with the comparative increase in vessels built, goods imported and exported, and the amount of public revenue:—

Year.	Vessels built		Value of Goods Imported. British Sterling.			Value of Goods Exported. British Sterling.			Amount of Revenue. Currency.		
	No.	Tons.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1833	41	4749	93,338	1	0	35,128	18	1	7656	17	10
1841	64	10,670	127,164	19	6½	68,322	8	6	13,690	3	2
1848	73	10,634	129,532	5	8	40,222	8	9	17,792	6	1
But you have here the results of the year											
1847	95	18,445	143,647	3	6	71,228	14	2	25,264	1	9½
Making a difference in favor of											
1847	22	7811	14,114	17	10	31,006	5	5	7,471	16	8½

which will enable you to form some idea of how severe the blow was which was inflicted upon the inhabitants during that year. I therefore enter my protest against taking the Census of the year 1848, as giving a fair average of the increase of the commercial prosperity of the Colony.

You will doubtless be astonished at seeing the vast difference that exists between our imports and our exports, and perhaps be inclined, with many of the good people of the Island, to think that a country

the imports of which amount to double the exports, must be the reverse of prosperous. A little reflection, accompanied by a little calculation, will serve to set the matter in its true light. In the first place, you will be pleased to bear in mind that the imports are valued at the (invoice) prices in the countries from whence they are imported; whereas the exports are valued at the prices they bear here. In the next place, the imports are all manufactured articles, the value of which bear no proportion to the freight; the exports, with one exception, in the raw or nearly raw state, and of such bulky dimensions that the freight is often greater than the original value of the article. Take timber, for instance: the official value of that article is, I find, from 16s. to 16s. 8d. sterling per ton—rather a high price too; I suspect currency would have been nearer the mark. The price in England is about 1s. to 1s. 1d. per foot, or 40s. to 43s. 4d. per ton; take the lowest marks, 16s. and 40s., the difference between them is 24s., or 12s. in the pound. The whole amount of exports to Great Britain is in that year, something upwards of £32,000; add to that 12s. in the pound, and you will find that the amount paid to the British merchant for his goods is £41,200. But ships are likewise an article of export; and in that same year (1847)60 vessels, whose tonnage amounted to 9608, were transferred to other parts; let these be calculated at £4 12s. sterling per ton, and they will amount to upwards of £40,000. Here are two items alone, which make upwards of £90,000.

The Accounts for 1847, might fairly enough stand thus:—

Dr.	
To Imports,	£143,647
Balance in favor of the Island,	14,513
	£158,160

Cr.	
By Exports,	£71,228
60 per cent. advance on the above,	42,736
9608 Tons of Shipping, at £4 12s.,	44,196
	£158,160

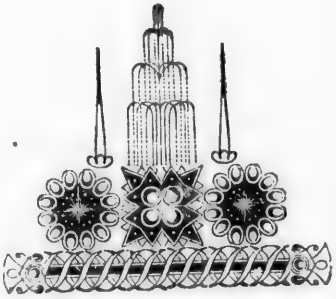
I am not going to say, that the above is strictly correct, far from it; but this I do say, that it is more like the true state of the case than appears by the Custom House books. There is also a considerable number of exports that do not find their way into the entries at the

Customs: gold and silver, bills of exchange drawn by men of property whose incomes are derived from the Mother Country, independently of the Lieutenant Governor, naval and military officers, pensioners, the subsistence of the troops, &c.; so that it is easy enough to be seen that the balance must be on the side of the Island. But the best of all proofs is, that the importations go on increasing not only comprising the necessary but the luxurious articles of life. The increase in the Revenue is also another proof of the increase of the wealth of the Island. The population in 1827 amounted, as we have seen, to 23,266; in 1848, to 62,678—not quite three times as many in the latter year as in the former; the revenue in 1827, is £5456; while in 1847, it is £25,264—that is, upwards of 4½ times that of 1827. I do not, remember, lay any particular stress upon these rough calculations; they will serve, however, as some sort of answer to those who, it may be, will point out the great difference between our exports and imports, and endeavour to derive from thence one of those convincing knock-me-down sort of arguments which men over-fond of statistics are apt to assail you with. All I can say, is, that if all the balances found against us in the Custom House books in every year were to be added together, they would, without reckoning the interest, amount to a greater number of pounds than we have acres in the Island; and I think that the conclusion that the Island is upwards of a million pounds sterling in debt, may be fairly set down as a *reductio ad absurdum*, as the logicians say.

I will weary your patience no further with statistics. As respects the increase of commerce, however, I will venture on a few more facts. Twenty-five years ago, and there were but two wharfs in Charlottetown; one of these—a public one, called then the King's, but now, of course, the Queen's—not above 40 yards in length, at the utmost; and another at the other extremity of the town, much smaller. There are now several, and the Queen's wharf is extended upwards 700 feet to the channel; a second public wharf has been built of equal length, and, being a prolongation of one of the main streets, is thence called Pownal-street wharf. Several large warehouses have been built; in fact, the town has kept pace with the country.

I confess, when I look round and see the number of articles to be disposed of, and the tone of increased luxury manifested every where, I am at a loss to find out upon what premises they ground their conclusions, who tell us that the Island is going backward instead of forward. I do, however, trust that our merchants will persevere in finding new outlets for our produce, and that our farmers will exert themselves to supply the merchants with something besides the raw unmanufactured article. Talking of manufactures,

puts me in mind that we have two steam mills for the manufacture of flour; one, belonging to George Coles, Esq., has been some years in operation; the other, by T. B. Tremain, Esq., is almost, if not entirely completed, and bids fair to be an advantage both to himself and the town. If there were any thing like a list of the professions, trades and callings within reach, I would send it to you; but we have not come to the length of a Directory yet. You can guess what are the most prevalent occupations in a sea-port town, which also supplies the whole agricultural population. We want, it is true, a good many things, to bring us on a par with towns in your country. Gas, for one thing; this, however, we are told, we shall get for next to nothing, by Dr. Gesner's invention of Kerosene. I do not doubt but that, in the course of a few years, we shall be able to accomplish this, and many other matters equally as requisite.



LETTER XVI.

I would have written to you last week, had the Royal Agricultural Society's report on the adjudication of the prizes been published. In giving you an account of the progress made in Agriculture, I wish to avail myself of the best and latest information, derived from sources which I know to be pure and to be relied upon. But as that is not yet forthcoming, I will in the mean time endeavor to give you some idea of the progress already made, and what may be reasonably expected to be made in the sister art of gardening. During the months of December, January, February and March, there is nothing to be done; it will be all the better, for insuring the fertility of the ensuing crop and the preservation of the different perennials, that the ground should during these months be kept warm by a blanket of snow two or even three feet thick. It is a wonderful preservative. The operations of the gardener commence generally in April, either earlier or later, as the season may turn out; and the work to be then done, is that which is performed by you in the preceding months of February and March. Hot-beds are made, trees pruned, and the seeds of a few of the early and hardier sorts of vegetables are sown. I have already told you, that all the common kinds of vegetables will grow here as well as they do in England. Many things which stand the utmost severity of your Winters, are not proof against that of ours; and yet I am not so much inclined to lay it to the account of either the greater duration or intensity of the cold. I rather think that the heat of the sun in the Spring of the year, operating upon the stems of the plants while the roots are fast bound in ice, and the alternate freezings and thawings which they undergo at that season, are productive of a more deleterious effect than continued cold. That the warmth of the solar rays has the effect of setting the sap in motion, is well known to our makers of maple sugar. About the middle, or toward the latter end of March, when a powerfully warm sun has succeeded the sharp frost of the preceding night, those who are anxious to collect maple sap for the purpose of boiling down into sugar, go early into the woods and tap the trees, which is done by making a slanting cut with an

axe upon the butt of the tree, to the lower end of which is inserted a small wooden spile—as they call that which is just the reverse of a spile, being a piece of grooved maple, or other soft wood, intended to act as a spout or conductor of the sap into the troughs or buckets placed under them. So long as the sun continues to shine upon the tops of the trees, so long the sap runs freely; let a passing cloud obstruct his rays, even for half an hour, and you will see a perceptible difference: where it a little while before trickled in an almost continuous stream, the sap now imitates the ticking of an old fashioned eight-day clock, the intervals, however, growing longer between every successive drop. Now, though the hardy denizen of the forest and native of the soil may stand these sudden alternations of heat and cold, it proves generally fatal to those which trace their origin to more moderate climes. And yet there is a great deal of anomaly mixed up with the thing. The ivy, which is the personification of vegetable hardihood with you, will not, neither will the box or holly, thrive with us; some few remain for a season or two, but in the course of a few years dwindle and die like their predecessors. It is true, we have no old castles or ruins—which seem to be their favorite *habitats*; but then, how comes it that the woodbine, the common honeysuckle, the trumpet honeysuckle, the mezereon, the guelder rose, the acacia, and various others, thrive as luxuriantly as can be wished.

If our Winters are something more severe than yours, our Summers are more genial. The cucumber perfects its seed though sown in the open ground, a circumstance not often to be met with you, I believe. In the Autumn, they are to be had of the country people at a very low rate, from 6d. to 1s. sterling the dozen. At the same time, and from the same people, may be purchased what we, in common with our more Southern neighbours, call 'green corn'—the half ripe ears of maize, or Indian corn—these are either boiled or roasted, and eaten with salt and butter; young people are generally passionately fond of them. They are not quite the thing for a young lady to indulge her appetite with in the presence of her lover, as the only way to enjoy them is, as I once heard one of the finest 'pisantry' in the world say: 'You must first plaster 'em wid butter, and pepper 'em wid salt, and take 'em in your two paws, and thin gnaw away at thim for all the world like a dog that hadn't had a dinner for a week.' I recollect when I was a few years younger than I now am, I was a fond of gnawing as any one, but somehow I do not think them now quite as light of digestion as I did then. A great deal may be, and is effected by early forcing and then transplanting

into the open air; in this way we have early cauliflowers, tomatoes, capsicums, and much more might be done; but I am constrained to confess, that the taste for gardening is of slow growth. There are but two conservatories in the whole Island, and the success of the proprietor of one of these—my friend the Hon. T. H. Haviland, the Colonial Secretary—would have prompted others of his class, one would have thought, to have followed his example. Independently of keeping a number of very beautiful exotics through the Winter, Mr. Haviland has had grapes ripen very early in the season; he has also ripened oranges; and there is nothing in this world to hinder any person from having all the luxuries of the vegetable world that are enjoyed by persons of twice the income in the British Isles.

You will bear in mind, that we have no tax upon windows, that glass is subject only to the low import duty of six per cent. *ad valorem*, and, as all duties of Excise are drawn back, that value is extremely low: it may be imported also from the United States at a cheaper rate even than from England; wood is not a very expensive article, and although Carpenters' wages are compared with those of your own country, a little higher, yet it is but a little, so that there does not exist one-half of the impediment to this so rational species of luxury on this side of the Atlantic as there does on the other. There is one obstacle, it is true, want of taste, and for removing, this I look for the assistance of yourself, and others who may follow you, who have seen how much these appliances tend to promote and enhance the pleasures of domestic life. I shall be delighted when I see some man of taste—of true taste—build a house with a spacious conservatory and grapery, nor do I the least doubt, when a few examples are set, and the advantages known, that, in the course of a half dozen or so of years, to see them almost universal. I well remember that, about 20 years since, a few Horse-shoe Geraniums, a Myrtle or two, and perhaps an Artemesia, gave the possessors a consequence and a reputation for a taste for the elegancies of life, that was quite gratifying to the favored few. The first Fuschia created a sensation. Now we have Arineas, and Aloes Cactus, and Camelias, Bignonias, Bigonians, and the whole alphabet of flowers in the windows of every house. So that you see you must tell your good lady not to part with any thing of that kind she may be possessed of; that is, provided that the 'portation of them wont cost more than they will come to. Tell her to bring seeds of every possible variety of Summer flowers, they thrive as well, and bloom as tolerably with us, as in their native climes, and when contrasted with the dark green of the indigenous Fir, or placed in *juxta position* with the red berried Sumach, the splendid Tree Cranberry, the delicate, lovely, lady-like Messilus, the blushing Alodera, the Kalmica Ledum, and a number whose names I cannot call to mind

—all natives—will form for her as pretty a shrubbery and flower garden as she will leave behind. You will take some pains to bring with you grafted trees of the Apple, Pear, Cherry, Plum, Quince, and all other trees common to your own gardens. Be careful, however, to have these apples early leaves than otherwise, not that I would recommend merely Summer fruit, on the contrary, a few of them; but the principal should be keeping fruit, and those that ripen early in October. We want some good Cherries sadly, as well as varieties of Plums; the Green Gage grows and ripens as well here as in any part of America, and better than in most parts of Britain. We are already getting a reputation for that most excellent and easily raised fruit, the Gooseberry; this need not prevent you, bringing with you some of the best of the thousand and one varieties you have in Lancashire; I promise you that they will not degenerate here, that is in good lands. Bring some seeds of the Gigantic Asparagus, you will hardly believe what splendid specimens some of us boast of. It does not cost us half the labor or trouble to bring it to perfection, that it does you. This is another anomaly, how is it that Asparagus, Rhubarb, Sea Kale, &c., will stand the utmost exposure to the severest of our winters, and not be in the least injured, while other things considered with you equally hardy fail? By the way, I was on the point of forgetting the pride of the garden—not London pride, but—Tulips; tell Mrs. M., that they—that is the Tulips—do not fear the severity of our Northern winters a whit, for, though they are frozen in common with the ground that surrounds them, so hard that, if fired from a musket, they would penetrate a deal board at a 100 yards, no sooner does the snow leave the ground exposed to the influence of the sun's rays, than they push themselves into notice modestly enough at first; but afterwards, as if conscious of their claims, as proudly as the proudest of Floral beauties. Tell your sisters to bring their gardening gloves, hoes, spades, rakes, &c.; and when they come, to set an example to the natives of their own sex here; the sun is hot, but drawn bonnets, or straw hats are not difficult to make, or expensive to purchase. The cultivation of a flower garden has been accounted, since Eve's time, as a truly lady-like employment, and tends to bring out their own charms, while they are assisting nature in the display of hers.

LETTER XVII.

I could have wished that it had been in my power to send you a more accurate and detailed account of the present state of our agriculture, than I am about to attempt. The truth is, that we have no public data, nor can I have access to any private calculations, although many have promised to furnish me with the latter—whereas, to form any thing like conclusions that would be satisfactory, either to myself or others. You are sufficiently aware from my former letters, that the agricultural operations of those who are engaged in the tillage of the soil, have been hitherto of the simplest description, and the least calculated to exhaust the fertile properties of the most naturally rich soil.

In all new countries, the crops taken out of the wood, as it is termed, are the most profitable; cutting down, rolling and burning, and taking crop after crop without adding any thing to the soil, in return, has been and is the invariable practice all over America, and it is not until poor mother earth, like the overloaded camel, refuses to bear any longer, that they think of supplying food for the plants, it is their wish to raise off her bosom; and even then the great proportion of the cultivators are without capital, for those who had been so fortunate as to put their surplus earnings by, had been tempted to invest them in what gave a quicker, though perhaps in the end, a less profitable return for their money. Matters are now upon a somewhat different footing, there is no want of capital either for trade or shipbuilding, in fact the competition is so great, moderate profits only are to be looked for, and men have begun to see, that taking the increased value of the land, as well as that of the respective crops, into consideration, capital may be invested in agricultural pursuits to advantage. And every year will make this plainer and clearer, but as I am not writing a treatise on Agriculture, but a letter to a friend, I will abstain from bestowing my tediousness upon him.

From the best authorities, I have been able to consult, I should reckon the average crop of wheat to be somewhere about 15 Winchester bushels per acre, rather under perhaps than over, worth when properly clean,—which is not always the case,—about 6s. currency the bushel, or 4s. sterling, and reckoning nine Winchester bushels equal to eight imperial, makes it 36s. sterling the quarter. Oats are considered as giving, upon an average, about 30 bushels to the acre, worth 1s. sterling per bushel, though the price is, I believe, on the increase.

I can hardly tell what the average of barley is, nor has (what you call) barley been a common crop with us: what has hitherto been grown has been for the most part *bear* or *bigg*.

I turn with more pleasure from what has been, to what may be done, and in the first place, it will not, perhaps, be amiss to give you a more scientific opinion upon the retained properties of the soil than my own. The following is from the report of Abraham Gesner, Esq., M. D., F. G. S., &c. &c., of a geological survey made by order of Government in 1846. "*Almost the whole area (of the Island) is capable of successful cultivation, and in no part of British America can a soil be found that is more congenial to wheat and other kinds of grain." In another place he says, "The soils of Prince Edward Island may be divided into two classes—the varieties of the first class have been derived from the rocks of the Island: they occupy the greater part of the surface, and, from the presence of oxide of iron, they are almost invariably red, or of a chocolate colour. The other is of foreign origin, having evidently been brought in during the boulder formation already adverted to. The soils are almost universally of that description called sandy loam; but probably in no part of British America can a district of equal size be found where the soils are so similar to each other and where they are so generally fertile."

So much for the land, I now turn to what it is capable of producing under good culture.

In the last year (1850) H. N. Hope, Esq., of St. Eleanor's, took the first prize, in Prince County, "for a field of red bald wheat, containing three acres—(2 of which had been cropped with Sweedish turnips and contained the prize half acre the previous year,) thirty bushels per acre, weighing sixty-four pounds" and the second to Mr. Benjamin Bearisto, junr., of Prince Town Royalty, "for a field of red bearded, containing 7 acres manured from the deposits of decomposed oyster shells, which abound in that quarter. This field produced twenty-nine bushels to the acre, weighing sixty pounds per bushel." They speak of the unsuccessful competitors as having good average crops, and regret that there was not a greater competition "as in our rounds," say they, "we had a passing view of many fields presenting as good an appearance as those we were called on to inspect. This needs no comment from me, wheat weighing sixty-four pounds the bushel, is reckoned fair wheat every where, and thirty bushels to the acre is a good earnest of wheat, more may be effected by careful and scientific exertions.

When the potato disease had produced such fatal effects it had

*Journals House of Assembly, P. E. Island, for 1847, Appendix.

one good effect, at least—and one, that leads fair to be productive of lasting benefit—it has compelled our farming population to exert themselves in the raising of other green crops, that may, in some measure, at least, compensate for the loss sustained by the failure of that of the potato. Accordingly in the raising of Sweedish turnips there has been great competition. In the last year prizes were awarded to

Charles Howat of Tryon, 632 bushels per half-acre, equal to 1264 bushels per acre, weighing 31 tons 12 cwt., 1st prize.

Cornelius Howat, 619 bushels per half-acre, 1238 bushels per acre, weighing 30 tons 19 cwt. 2nd prize.

The Hon. Judge Peters, of Charlottetown Royalty, 1153 bushels, per acre, 26 tons 16 cwt., 1st prize.

Jeremiah Simpson, Esq., of Cavendish, 1078 bushels per acre, 20 tons 19 cwt., 2nd prize.

Mr. Francis M'Nutt, of Darnley, 1099 bushels per acre, 27 tons 9 cwt., 1st prize.

Rev. Dr. Wiggins, St. Eleanor's, 919 bushels per acre, 22 tons 19 cwt., 2nd prize.

There were also prizes given for the growth of bullock turnips, 440 bushels to the acre, weighing 11 tons, seems to be the highest prize.

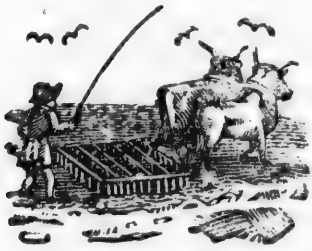
Now I leave you to compare with those of the parent country, and draw your own inferences, always premising, however, that you must take into account, that we are as yet in the extreme youth of Agriculture with cramped means, while she is in full age and crowned with abundance.

You may easily suppose, that our meadows are not in the same fine order as yours are, nor indeed as they ought to be, considering the soil, but in this, as in many other things, there is a "better time coming," and all are beginning to see that five-and-twenty acres of land, well cultivated, will yield far more than fifty tilled in the inefficient manner that has hitherto been in use. Flax was formerly extensively, and still is partially, grown by the French; the low price of cotton goods, however, has induced many of them to relinquish the culture of it, but if this same method of boiling instead of steeping or dew rotting, as is the practice here, shall prove profitable, there is nothing to hinder the Island from becoming celebrated for a manufacture of this article, as well as hemp which will grow equally well.

I should have told you previously that when the potato crop failed recourse was had, besides turnips, to carrots, parsnips, and mangel wurtzel, all of which were found to agree well with the soil and climate. A friend of mine raised 30 bushels of carrots upon

5½ perches of land at the rate of upwards of 900 bushels per acre, this was, however, in a vacant town lot, and cultivated and manured well and carefully. They have within the last three years become an article of field culture and produce abundantly; several hundred bushels have been exported to the neighbouring colonies. The parsnip grows equally well, if not better, and will continue in the ground unhurt by the severity of the weather which is something in its favor.

I have now endeavoured to give you some idea of what the soil will produce, if carefully tilled and justice done to it. I am myself of opinion, and that opinion has been formed by reading and information derived from various other sources, added to a tolerably correct personal knowledge of the capabilities of the neighbouring Province of Nova Scotia—that the Island is not inferior as an agricultural country to either the New England States of America, Canada, Nova Scotia, or New Brunswick. The only thing now needful is to convince the farmers of P. E. Island of this fact, and thus induce them to exert their energies. Should they do so a very few years only will have to elapse before the Americans and their fellow colonists will express themselves of the same opinion.



NOW PUBLISHING,

AND WILL BE READY IN JUNE, 1851,

A NEW MAP OF

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND,

From actual Survey of the several Townships: all the Roads distinctly laid out, with the Post Roads separately distinguished, and the Mills, Churches, and School Houses.

CHARLOTTETOWN:
GEORGE T. HASZARD.
Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd.——Liverpool: Wilmer and Smith.
London: S. Bagster and Son.

LETTER XVIII.

You say that you are extremely anxious to know something about the native Indians, the aboriginal inhabitants of the Island. Having taken all your ideas of Indians, their virtues and their vices, from the different descriptions (and these so discordant and unlike) that have from time to time been published in England, you will be very much disappointed.

The Indian of the maritime parts of America, is as little like his independent brother of the yet unsubdued forest, as you may conceive the present Gypsy is to his Egyptian ancestor, who lived in the times of Cheops or the Pharoahs. Degraded however, as they are, and debased by the use of intoxicating liquors, there are many points about them which command respect. They are still a separate people, they have their own language, and above all, their own traditions; well aware that they are the true and legitimate lords of the soil, they look upon us as usurpers, successful ones it is true, but not the less usurpers; and accordingly, they have never acknowledged our jurisdiction. With a solitary exception or two, they prefer the bark wigwam of their ancestors, to the best built house that could be afforded to them. The unsettled roving kind of life they lead, is a part of their nature, and I have never yet heard of any of them settling down permanently, and bringing up their children with those habits that are the necessary results of civilization. According to our ideas of the thing; their life must be wretched in the extreme; not such is their view of the matter, I question upon the whole, whether they do not rather look down upon us with more contempt and pity than we do upon them; they are fond enough of good eating and drinking, especially the latter, but think that we work harder and undergo more privations to secure the possession of them than they deserve. In one respect the Indian is a true gentleman; he will not work if he can avoid it. He will hunt and shoot and fish, as much as you please, and spend the evening in drinking, telling stories, and cracking jokes, pretty much after the manner of other sportsmen; nay, he will spend whole

days in gambling: whether the game of drafts has been learned of us, or whether they were in possession of this ancient game before the arrival of Europeans on their coast, certain it is, that they play it well.

They are remarkably well bred: feeling themselves equals they have no "*mauvaise honte*," no diffidence: when sober, they are especially cautious of giving offence, and this not from fear, but from a natural feeling of the impropriety of the thing. It would seem, that they have no low vituperative terms in their own language, no slang vocabulary; such is its paucity in this respect, that for the simplest mode of invoking evil on the head or person of their opponent, they are obliged to have recourse to the English language, even when objurgating one another. The Micmac language, said a friend of mine, is literally "not worth a curse," and, I may add, that the Micmac never thinks of cursing till prompted by the instigation of the Devil in the shape of alcohol. I have much pleasure in giving my friend, the Rev. Mr. Rand's account of their social habits.

"In few places are the principles of order, "a place for every thing, and every thing in its place; a time for every thing, and every thing in its time; a station for every one, and every one in his station;" more fully carried out than in the Indian's wigwam. One unacquainted with their customs, would not suspect this. He looks in upon the beings in human form—and every thing is so different from his own ideas of order, that he may suppose that all is, in reality, in as much confusion as it appears to him. Little does he suspect that the tittering and chattering, going on among the youthful members of the group are probably at his own expense, occasioned by his apparent ignorance of good breeding. "Well," said an Indian, who was assisting me in translating Luke 14, "Well, I would like to read that to some Scotchmen. I think they might learn a little manners from it." He referred to verse 7—11, where Our Saviour gives direction for the exercise of humility and courtesy. Paul's habitation happened to be in the neighbourhood of a Scotch settlement; but men of any nation would need some knowledge of Indian etiquette, as well as the "Scotch people" in order to avoid giving offence, or being laughed at, on visiting a wigwam. "When they come to our *camps*," said he, "they neither know where to go, what to do, nor what to say; and they commence asking questions, 'what is this? what is this? what is this?' We say nothing to them about it; but we speak of their ignorance and ill-manners among ourselves. They think us about on a level with the beasts," he continued, "but in reality an

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"In few places are the principles of order, "a place for every thing, and every thing in its place; a time for every thing, and every thing in its time; a station for every one, and every one in his station;" more fully carried out than in the Indian's wigwam. One unacquainted with their customs, would not suspect this. He looks in upon the beings in human form—and every thing is so different from his own ideas of order, that he may suppose that all is, in reality, in as much confusion as it appears to him. Little does he suspect that the tittering and chattering, going on among the youthful members of the group are probably at his own expense, occasioned by his apparent ignorance of good breeding. "Well," said an Indian, who was assisting me in translating Luke 14, "Well, I would like to read that to some Scotchmen. I think they might learn a little manners from it." He referred to verse 7—11, where Our Saviour gives direction for the exercise of humility and courtesy. Paul's habitation happened to be in the neighbourhood of a Scotch settlement; but men of any nation would need some knowledge of Indian etiquette, as well as the "Scotch people" in order to avoid giving offence, or being laughed at, on visiting a wigwam. "When they come to our *camps*," said he, "they neither know where to go, what to do, nor what to say; and they commence asking questions, 'what is this? what is this? what is this?' We say nothing to them about it; but we speak of their ignorance and ill-manners among ourselves. They think us about on a level with the beasts," he continued, "but in reality an

Indian thinks as much of his *camp*, as the Governor thinks of his palace."

"The wigwam is a curious structure. It is of a conical shape, and no little skill is displayed in its erection. The frame is raised and fastened. The rows of bark are carefully put on. In the winter it is lined in the inside with spruce boughs, and a thick coating of the same material upon the outside, to prevent the cold from entering. Boughs are neatly spread down inside "the camp," forming an admirable substitute for carpets, cushions, and beds; and the doorway, in winter, is also partly closed with them, placed so as to spring back and forth as you pass and repass. A piece of blanket hangs over the doorway. Every post of the wigwam, every bar, every fastening, every tier of bark, and every appendage, whether for ornament or use, has a name; and all the different portions of the one room, their appropriate designations and uses. The fire occupies the centre. On each side is the *kamigwom*. There sit, on the one side of the fire, the master and mistress; and, on the other, the old people, when there are old people in the family; and the young women, when there are young women, and no old people. The wife has her place next the door, and by her side sits her lord. You will never see a woman setting *above* her husband,—for towards the back part of the camp, the *kutakumuk*, is *up*. This is the place of honour. To this place visitors and strangers, when received with a cordial welcome, are invited to come. "*Kutakumagual*, *upchelase*," they say to him, "come up toward the back part of the wigwam."

The inmates of the "camp" have their appropriate postures as well as places. The men sit cross-legged, like the Orientals. The women sit with their feet twisted round to one side, one under the other. The younger children sit with their feet extended in front. To each of these postures an appropriate word is applied. The first is *chenumubasi*, I sit down man-fashion, i. e., cross-legged. The second is, *mimskulugunabase*, I sit down with my legs twisted around. The third is, *sokwokabase*, I sit with my feet extended.

And they have some knowledge of Astronomy. They have watched the stars during their night excursions, or while lying in wait for game. They know that the North Star does not move, and they call it "*ockwotunuguwa kulokuwech*," "the North Star." They have observed that the circumpolar stars never set. They call the Great Bear, "*Muen*," *the bear*. And they have names for several other constelations. The morning star is *ut'adabum*, and the seven stars *ejulkuch*. And "what do you call that?" said a venerable old lady a short time ago, who with her husband, the

chief of Cape Breton, was giving me a lecture on Astronomy, on nature's celestial globe, through the apertures of the wigwam. She was pointing to the "milky way." "Oh, we call it the milky way —the milky road," said I. To my surprise she gave it the same name in Micmac."

It is melancholy to reflect, that these poor fellows are not enabled to call a spot of land their own in a country where their ancestors once reigned supreme. Lennox Island is occupied by a portion of them, and will continue so to be, I suspect, until they shall have ceased to exist, though their only English title to it is by adverse possession.

The Rev. Mr. Rand's book from which I have lengthily quoted, is well worth the reading, and can be had at "Stamper's."

And now, my dear M—, I must, I think, bid you farewell, the time is approaching, when you will have to prepare for your voyage across the Atlantic. It was my intention to have given you some insight into our constitution, but as this would have, perhaps, seduced me into the not very flowery paths of local politics, I shall refrain, except to mention *en passant*, that it is composed of a Lieut. Governor, the Representative of Her Majesty, a Legislative Council, analogous to your House of Lords, and a House of Representatives, elected in the same manner as members of the House of Commons, and these form our Provincial Parliament, as it is the fashion now to call it.

In imitation of those from whom we are descended, we have our "political parties." I can hardly tell you what the names are, but Responsibles and Tories, Obstructives and Destructives, Snatchers and Snarlers, &c., &c., &c., are in constant use among the slang-whanghers—as Washington Irving calls them—of both sides. The contest, however, will soon be decided, as the new Lieut. Governor is hourly expected. I will take this opportunity, however, to advise you to have as little to do with the thing as possible. Stick to your farm: make two ears of wheat and two blades of grass grow, where one grew before, and make apples, pears, plums, cherries, grapes, and peaches take the place of the pine, the maple, and the fir, and you will earn purer fame and be entitled and recieve more tokens of respect and esteem, than if you had made tiresome speeches of three or four hours' duration. Give my best respects to your good lady, and bid her be under no fear, but that she will receive a hearty welcome, and respectful attention from us all, and particularly from him who now bids you, for the present, Farewell.

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